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Busted: Merchants of Death

State, Federal and local police crack down on Dominican Drug Cartel in Lawrence who joked about how many deaths they caused from improperly cut fentanyl, a synthetic drug used to mix with heroin that has killed hundreds of people in the valley. Five fentanyl drug leaders were illegal aliens, two were in possession of a firearm.

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Valley Patriot of the Month

James Edward Bradley ~ U.S. Navy, WWII

Beth D'Amato
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

On June 6th 1944, the allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France. It's been documented that this battle was responsible for nearly 210,000 casualties. This includes US and Allied forces both in air and on the ground.

After the initial battle on D-Day, the reinforcement troops continued to land. By June 11th 1944, the amount of troops dropped onto the beaches was estimated to have been 326,547. Also, 104,428 tons of supplies and 54,186 vehicles were dropped there.

The carnage from the naval combat ships, landing craft, transport vessels and artillery were left abandoned on the beaches for months after the battle. The remnants of steel, aluminum and scrap metal had to be retrieved and shipped back to the United States. This daunting task was given to the Navy CB's aka Construction Battalion. One of those CB's was twenty year old James Bradley.

James Edward Bradley was born on August 1, 1924 in Haverhill, MA. One of five children, James grew up in Haverhill. In 1943, during his last year of high school, James quit before graduation to join the Navy.

"I earned all the required credits to graduate, so I had my mother pick up my diploma." James and all his siblings served in WWII. The oldest was his sister, Elaine. She was a nurse on a warship. His brother Paul was a top turret gunner on a bomber, his brother Freddy was stationed on a navy warship and his brother Billy was in the Navy for a year and eventually went to work for Naval Intelligence which later became part of the CIA. The Bradleys were a military family that started with their father who served in WW1.

James Bradley left Haverhill Massachusetts in 1943 for basic training in Norfolk Virginia. From there, he went on to Davisville, Rhode Island. On Flag Day 1943, Bradley was sent overseas in a Navy Troop ship to Newfoundland. The CB's or Seabees consisted of a group of diversely skilled young men trained in everything from construction to electrical work and

plumbing. A unit could range up to 1,200 men.

"Once we reached Newfoundland, we were sent in to build the bases needed for the troops," Bradley said. "This consisted of leveling roads, breaking down and cleaning out inhabitable spaces along with assorted construction work, rewiring, and plumbing."

Bradley says they sent him back to Rhode Island for additional training and certifications. It wasn't long before he was shipped out again on Flag Day, this time in 1944 from New York to Liverpool, Eng-

HERO: PAGE 19

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Strengthening Prescription Drug Safety

Senator Katy Ives
MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE

The Massachusetts State Senate debated the Fiscal Year 2018 state budget last month, where I advocated for key provisions that will be beneficial to the constituents of my district and the Commonwealth. One of the amendments in the Senate Fiscal Year 2018 budget, which I co-sponsored, included an amendment filed by Senator Keenan, removing a sunset clause that was added to the state-wide Drug Take-Back / Stewardship Program.

In 2016, the Legislature passed a comprehensive substance addiction prevention bill to curb the deadly results of the substance abuse epidemic by fostering more responsible prescribing practices, educating children and adults on the dangers of opioids, and tasking pharmaceutical companies to assist in the proper disposal of unwanted drugs. The Senate's original intent was to have a permanent drug take-back program, but ultimately, a five-year, temporary pilot program was passed into law. This budget amendment removes the sunset clause that was added to the state-wide Drug Take-Back/Stewardship Program.

By removing the sunset provision, the Department of Public Health can establish a robust plan requiring pharmaceutical companies selling or distributing opioid drugs to establish a collection system and provide patients with convenient, ongoing collection services in order to dispose of unwanted drugs. Such services may include mail-back programs, collection kiosks, and regional drop-off days.

Pharmaceutical companies have not been receptive to this idea. A few California counties have adopted ordinances requiring the set up of disposal programs and companies have lobbied hard against these initiatives, arguing that it would be too costly to maintain. It was estimated to cost $330,000 a year in Alameda County, California to maintain such a program, while pharmaceutical companies collect $950 million a year in sales revenue there. Pharmaceutical trade groups went so far as to appeal these take back programs through the legal system, but the United States Supreme Court refused to hear their objections.

Studies show that of all opioid overdose deaths between the years 2011 and 2014, two-thirds had an opioid prescription. Stewardship programs hold this industry accountable for the safe disposal of their products. This method will also protect our water system. Flushing unused medications down the toilet compromises our drinking water quality and broader environment. Moreover, safe prescription drug disposal helps reduce the likelihood of medications falling into the wrong hands. Opioid manufacturers are best equipped to develop and administer these programs. And, it is also their responsibility to do so. These companies have profited handsomely, while a nation is reeling in the destruction, pain and death directly connected to their products. The least they should do is fund the take-back of their products. Pathetically, they are fighting this very reasonable and logical effort, thinking only of protecting their bottom lines.

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"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

Hurricanes and Meteorological Summer

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to June the start of meteorological summer and the beginning of hurricane season.

The month of May saw three consecutive days where the temperature reached 90 degrees or higher. This resulted in a heat wave that was the result of the Bermuda high pressure system strengthening and forcing the jet stream north of New England.

Warm to hot air circulated around the western side of the Bermuda high pressure system and moved into our area. New record high temperatures occurred during this three day hot stretch which really gave us that summer time feel with families going to the beach and enjoying the outdoors.

However, this heat was short lived and did not last more than three days. A cold front moved through and brought cooler air from Canada. May averaged out with cooler than normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. That's because the jet stream moved back down to our south as the result of blocking in the atmosphere. An omega block formed in Canada.

What's an omega block? An omega block forms when the jet stream winds take on the Greek symbol Omega. When this occurs, weather systems at the surface slow down and can even stall. This can cause a weather pattern to remain unchanged for several days or even a few weeks. Our part of the region is north of the jet stream in regards to the Omega block. This puts our region on the cool side of the jet stream.

This Omega block has also caused the Bermuda high pressure system to be suppressed well to the south. This has caused the summer heat and humidity to remain well south of our area. Our weather will remain the same, cooler than normal with possible wet weather at times until this break in the atmosphere breaks down.

A bias of the computer models is that they can want to break this block down too quickly. Eventually the block will weaken and break down but timing of this is difficult.

It is not abnormal to get an omega block. However, in years past, these blocks used to occur more in March and April and not so much in May or June. By June the jet stream used to move from west to east and be located north of the U.S. and Canadian border. This gave us many hot & humid days in June. It is difficult to say why we are seeing this block late into the month of June. We have to remain patient for this block to break down. Once it does, summer weather will return along with the Bermuda High.

As noted above, June starts the hurricane season in the northern Hemisphere. Hurricanes from on the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone. This is where all the trade winds meet or converge. Hurricanes form over ocean waters where the temperatures are 80 degrees or higher.

Hurricanes move by the flow of the Jet Stream. Hurricanes can move up the east coast and strike New England, however, they can tend to weaken as they encounter colder ocean waters at higher latitudes and longitudes. Unlike low pressure systems which are attached by fronts, a hurricane is its own entity. It is not attached to other fronts.

Areas to the east side of the hurricane get the strongest winds and lower rain totals. Areas to the west of the track of the hurricane get heavier rain totals and not as strong winds. Areas that are hit by a hurricane have to contend with flooding and also power outages due to the strong winds. The center of the hurricane is called the eye. This is where the winds go calm and the sky can briefly clear.

Once the eye passes the rain and wind begin all over again.

Hurricanes weaken when they track over land because they lose their energy from the warm ocean waters. Also, the friction of the land lowers the wind speed. When the winds reach 74 miles per hour or higher, the tropical storm becomes a hurricane.

Hurricanes are given names to make us aware that they are dangerous storms. When a large hurricane like Katrina or Andrew occurred, their names are now retired and will not be used again with future hurricanes. Time will tell how this year's hurricane season will be.

Next month we will recap June's weather and talk about what we can expect in July.

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All The Lies The "News Media" Told You About Trump

CNN PROVES EVERY DAY THAT THEY ARE FAKE NEWS

With all that talk about "fake news" these days it's hard to know what to believe anymore. So many news outlets have abandoned the idea that journalists are to report facts objectively, free of political propaganda and personal opinions.

Today, reporters do not report, they repeat. No longer do they go out and get primary sources that can be verified before "reporting" a story. Today, they simply take reports from other news outlets and repeat it in front of a camera as though they have researched the information and can say for sure that it's real. That's in between lecturing us on their political views during "news" reports and peppering every report with subjective political language.

Whether Fox or CNN, these "journalists" are mostly actors whose only skill is to look pretty, read a teleprompter, and say what they are told to say, through an earpiece, by producers and political activists in the control room.

It's a political production.

It's not news.

Just think about the breathless "reporting" CNN and the other fake media outlets told you in the last year alone.

It's quite the list.

Not one of these so-called "news" stories turned out to be true. Not one.

Take a look.

CNN BREAKING NEWS!

Donald Trump declares himself a candidate for ... president? He will never really run for president, it's all a publicity stunt. Nobody is ever going to vote for this guy. (media laughter)

OK he's running, but he's not serious and he's paying people to show up at his rallies.

Well ... he's kind of serious but ... CNN sources say he will DEFINITELY drop out of the race before Iowa.

He's still in the Iowa race? Well, he's going to come in last in Iowa and then he's going to drop out.

He made it through Iowa?

He was in third place?

Well ... He will NEVER win New Hampshire. Once he loses there, our sources say he is dropping out of the race ... and you can take that to the bank.

He won New Hampshire?

Well, that was a fluke, but look, he DEFINITELY can't ever win South Carolina or the religious South! Look at all the stuff he has done that's "immoral". Besides, our polling numbers show everyone hates this guy!

He won?

How the hell did that happen?

This is so strange.

BREAKING NEWS! CNN sources say 100% that with Marco Rubio as the sitting senator from Florida, Trump has no chance to win there and all the candidates are going to get behind Rubio before the Florida primary.

How the hell did Trump win Florida?

BREAKING NEWS... CNN polling data shows Donald Trump has no chance of winning California.

… DAMN IT!

BREAKING NEWS... Donald Trump has no chance of winning the actual Republican primary. CNN sources say that all the other candidates are making a deal to stop Trump before the convention.

Ok, ok, he won the primary but wait... BREAKING NEWS!

CNN sources now say Trump will have the GOP convention stolen from him by delegates who are going to change their vote at the last minute! Our sources say the new nominee will be ... Paul Ryan! (This was a two week story.)

That didn't happen?

It's OK. Our polling data shows that Hillary will win this election by 30 points anyway. Besides, look how INSANE Trump is! He's campaigning in Michigan and … Wisconsin?? Like he could ever win there! LMAO WHAT A TOOL! He has no idea what he's doing. Look at this guy. He's out of control!

CNN BREAKING NEWS!

Trump is finished NOW. There are audio recordings of Trump bragging that he sexually assaults women. Well, he didn't really say sexually assault, but we are going to report that as fact anyway because we all know he's going to lose. I mean, he has no chance at all.

Hold on ... BREAKING NEWS ... there's no recovering from this one. CNN is now reporting that a slew of women are now accusing Donald Trump of forcing himself on them sexually. We all know Trump hates women, Blacks, Muslims, gays, Mexicans (wow he REALLY hates Mexicans), and poor people. He hates the Pope, he threw a baby out of his rally for crying and he is inciting violence. The election is already over; he is just embarrassing himself now.

BREAKING NEWS! With two days left to Election Day, Hillary Clinton is 20

CNN: PAGE 11

Draining the Swamp in Lawrence

Law Enforcement Takes on the Death Merchants of Fentanyl

Federal, state, county, and local law enforcement officials conducted several major drug and immigration sweeps in Lawrence last month.

Officials say more than 2 1/2 kilos of fentanyl (representing over 100,000 bags) and six weapons were seized in morning raids May 30th, that netted 34 arrests. 18 were previously arrested.

Homeland Security announced at a press conference in Boston that 5 of the arrests were illegal aliens who were previously deported and reentered the country. Two illegal aliens were in possession of a firearm.

A Drug Enforcement (DEA) official said that it was the largest fentanyl distribution network in Massachusetts.

A Homeland Security official said that this is only the beginning for Lawrence and the Greater Lawrence area.

"We are far from done in Lawrence and surrounding cities and towns. We will do everything in our power to stem the flow of drugs in these communities. It was an extraordinary level of cooperation today with the DEA task force, Lawrence, Andover, Lowell police as well as state police, Essex County sheriff and ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms)."

A DEA official said they have wiretaps of the Lawrence drug distribution leaders discussing how to dilute the drug enough so that it is not lethal, but also does not satisfy the drug addicts craving, making them want more. They also laughed and joked about how many overdose deaths they caused as the result of mixing heroin and fentanyl wrong.

"Repeat offenders, people who reenter the country after deportation, is a federal offense. We are going to take that very seriously and we are getting that message out today and every day."

"As for the [recorded] calls that are reflected in the papers filed today, you see with great clarity some of the things we have been talking about on fentanyl."

"It's a deadly drug. The calls in question were the leaders of the organization discussing how to dilute the drug. Their goal, as they state on the wire, is that they dilute it enough so the user survives but not enough to satisfy their craving."

To better understand the gravity of the amount of fentanyl seized today (2 1/2 kilos), the DEA says that a finger (ten grams) of fentanyl costs $400 in Lawrence but those same ten grams cost $600 – $800 in Southern NH, more in Northern NH, and $1,000 - $1,200 per finger in Maine.

Officials said that they were having a hard time identifying some of those arrested because they had fake ID's.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera held a press conference Tuesday afternoon where he fended off questions from the Boston media about Lawrence being a sanctuary city and attracting criminals who believe they are safe. Rivera refused to say that Lawrence is NOT a sanctuary city.

The Boston press also asked Rivera if

BUSTED: PAGE 5

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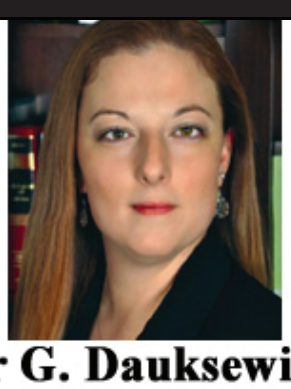

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Can Ruben Nieves Lead Lawrence?

Lantigua's Money, Rivera's Headaches and the Hotly Contested Mayor's Race

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

The Lawrence mayor's seat is a four year term and is limited to two terms. The mayor is in charge of the day to day operations of each city department, from police and fire, to water and sewer services, maintaining streets and parks.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera is finishing up his first term and running for reelection amid a myriad of scandalous headlines about the explosion in crime and drug distribution in the city.

There are seven candidates running for mayor of Lawrence; incumbent Mayor Dan Rivera, City Councilor Modesto Maldonado, former mayor Willie Lantigua, former candidate Nestor DeJesus, DPW worker Jorje Jaime, and fired Lawrence Police Officer William Green (who is appealing his firing) and Ruben Nieves.

Lawrence resident Ruben Nieves has a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting and finance, MBA from Southern NH University and a grad certificate in human resources from SNHU. Nieves graduated from Bible College in Puerto Rico and has received training in community development leadership, is the former head of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. Nieves ran for selectman in Andover in 1998.

Nieves says that he is running because he doesn't believe the current mayor, Dan Rivera, has united the city or focused on the real problems facing Lawrence.

"What I'm doing in this campaign is not for ego, or name recognition. I'm someone who has been involved in the community for a long time because I have a passion for Lawrence. I have a passion for people and the community. I do it because Lawrence needs real leadership and a long term plan. Lawrence needs to change our image but working on Lawrence's image without working on Lawrence's problems that give us that image hasn't worked the last ten years. We need a resolution to the crime epidemic and the safety issues in our neighborhoods and looking towards the future."

"One of the problems that we have in the Merrimack Valley is that the City of Lawrence is a point of contact for criminals and drug abusers, for the people who are transitioning into a worse situation than they were recently in. We have to help those people get out of the life of dependency, substance abuse, and if possible poverty."

Nieves says that the opioid epidemic and all of the crimes stemming from it leads to neighborhood violence, and "a disruption of the fabric of our communities and families. If we don't have leaders

capable of addressing these very real problems, we need to change those leaders or we are going to keep failing."

Nieves says that the city needs to be focused on how to be honest with its' citizens about the problem and stop playing to different factions within the city. He also said additional resources need to be raised to combat the crime and drug response by using every department in the city.

Kathy's Lawrence Notebook

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT LAWRENCE COLUMNIST

I've been gone for a few months and there's so much news you may not have heard about it'll take two months to catch up.

Council Business: The Ordinance Committee didn't have a quorum of regular members at any of its meetings during March and April. Each of the four members of the committee missed at least one of the bi-monthly meetings during that period. Councilor and Mayoral candidate Modesto Maldonado had a fundraiser the night of one of the two meetings that were cancelled.

Two regular members showed up for each of the remaining meetings during that period, which could only convene since the rules were recently changed to allow the president to make a quorum at committee meetings if necessary. It seems our councilors want to do everything but their jobs.

Campaign Finance: On June 1, Councilor Maldonado finally started filing deposit reports for this year's receipts with the Office of Political and Campaign Finance. Deposit reports list the names of the contributors and the amount they donated.

He filed three deposit reports dated March 8 of this year, with a total of $5,955 being deposited on that date. Unfortunately, the bank report shows receipts of $3,545 for the first half of March. Someone should tell him that those numbers are supposed to match up. Mr. Maldonado still has approximately $20,000 in contributions from unknown sources.

At a South Lawrence West Neighborhood Association meeting this spring, I asked candidate for Councilor-at-Large James Blatchford if he was in favor of Lawrence being a sanctuary city. He said that he wasn't going to "fight a losing battle". When pressed to clarify, he merely repeated the statement.

At the last council meeting of May, Pavel Payano, another candidate for Councilor-at-Large, had to be taken as an emergency item so he could speak about the importance of the city contributing to the school budget. There appeared to be problems with the video during parts of his talk. He had to wait until everything was running before continuing, since the main point of his speech was to be on camera looking important.

The only at Large candidate I'm supporting is Richard Russell. He will prepare for meetings. He will not ask questions then sit back while others to do the work for him. For full disclosure, I am his campaign treasurer.

Mandatory Recycling: At the same meeting a presentation on mandatory recycling was shown. Mandatory means tickets will be given for offenders. Currently there is no draft ordinance, but I guess this signals someone is working on one.

Luckily for us, the new ordinance won't even have to appear on an agenda as new business since there's a document from February 2015 regarding recycling already tabled at the Ordinance Committee.

I'm all for recycling, but I see potential chaos with mandatory recycling. Who gets the ticket if one family in a three family house doesn't recycle? Landlords will have to be rooting through their tenants' trash every week. What's to stop a neighbor from throwing an offending trash bag

LAWRENCE: PAGE 8

BUSTED: FROM PAGE 5

the governors of Maine and New Hampshire were correct in the way they characterized Lawrence as the source of their heroin and fentanyl overdose deaths.

Rivera refused to admit that the drug problem in Lawrence has infected surrounding communities and states.

THOSE ARRESTED IN THE MAY 30th FENTANYL ROUNDUP

Juan Anibal Patrone, a/k/a Juan Anibal, a/k/a Juan Anibal Patrone-Gonzalez, a/k/a Flaco, a/k/a Poppo, a/k/a Carlos, 26, a resident of Lawrence, dual citizen of the Dominican Republic and Italy.

Domingo Gonzalez Martinez, a/k/a Guega, 26, a resident of Lawrence, from the Dominican Republic.

Oscar Francisco Marcano Valverde, a/k/a Oscar Marcado, a/k/a Oscar Malcano, 38, a Dominican national and former resident of Haverhill, currently in custody at Bristol County House of Corrections.

Josuel Moises Patrone-Gonzalez, a/k/a Coqui, a/k/a Kiko, 22, resident of Lawrence, dual citizen of the Dominican Republic and Italy.

Luis F. Lugo, 20, of Lawrence.

Victor Alexander Gonzalez-Gonzalez, a/k/a Alex, 24, Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Daniel Diaz, 34, of Lawrence, currently in custody at Essex House of Corrections.

Luis A. Perez-Tomassini, 29, of Lawrence.

Leonel Vives, 30, of Methuen.

Santo Marino Nivar-Tejeda, a/k/a Mello, 46, a Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Andreury Fana Burgos, a/k/a Andreury Fanas, 21, a resident of Lawrence, from the Dominican Republic.

Lacey Picariello, 33, of Burlington, Mass.

Matthew Shover, 29, of Sandown, N.H., currently in custody at Essex House of Corrections.

Rafael Omar Arias-Rodriguez, a/k/a Prieto Tita, 37, of Lawrence.

Rafael Arce, 46, of Lawrence.

Reynaldo Duran Lora, 23, of Lawrence.

Stacey Littlefield, 41, of Rochester, N.H.

Melvin Weatherspoon, 57, of Rochester N.H.

Euclides Alcantara, 49, a resident of Methuen, from the Dominican Republic.

Ramon Gonzalez Nival, a/k/a Santo Ramon Gonzalez Nivar, a/k/a Santo Marino Gonzalez-Nival, a/k/a Santo Marino Guerrero Ruiz, a/k/a Luis Rivera, a/k/a Richard Romero, a/k/a Ismael Rivera-Ayala, a/k/a Caballito, a/k/a Ramoncito, a/k/a Caballo, 40, a Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Jose Rosado Sanchez, a/k/a Chiquito, a/k/a Pequeno, a/k/a Luis D. Resto, a/k/a Timothy O'Leary, a/k/a Luis Vega Martinez, 46 (true identity unknown).

Julio Baez Gonzalez, a/k/a Manolo, 34,

PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN (C) COPYRIGHT - 2017

a Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Ruddy Rafael Soto Lara, a/k/a Flor Saez Guzman, a/k/a Yernan Freight, a/k/a Rafael Ruddy, a/k/a Manuel Gonzalez, a/k/a Flor Saez, a/k/a Jorge Navarez, a/k/a Peje, 38, a Dominican national, currently in custody at Essex House of Corrections.

Geronimo Confesor Gonzalez Nivar, a/k/a Geronimo Gonzalez-Nival, a/k/a Geronimo Ruiz-Gonzalez; a/k/a Alexie, a/k/a Jaboa, 35, a Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Carlos Hernandez, a/k/a Gordo, 34, of Lawrence, currently in custody at Essex House of Corrections.

Rory Connolly, 33, of Manchester, N.H.

Bernaldo Rosario Santiago, a/k/a Bori, 25, of Lowell.

Diosmary Burgos, 39, resident of Lawrence, from the Dominican Republic.

Caonablo Mayobanex Pol Montero, a/k/a Cesar Eliel Echavarria Navarez, a/k/a Ely Manzano, a/k/a Mayo Baney Pol; a/k/a Mayo Pol; a/k/a Eddie Soto; a/k/a Jorge Mercado; a/k/a Israel Cortes; a/k/a Israel Cortez; a/k/a Ismael Guerra Cortez; a/k/a Ismael Cortez; a/k/a Israel P. Cortez; a/k/a Ismael Guerra; a/k/a Jorge L. Santiago; a/k/a Albertoz Vasquez; a/k/a Mayo Baney Montero; a/k/a Mayo Bane Montero; a/k/a Bani, 45, a Dominican national residing in Lawrence.

Shawn Keefe, 27, of Lowell.

Leonny Burgos, of Lawrence.

Miriam Roche, of Lawrence.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

HEROES IN OUR MIDST
BOOK SIGNINGS

On Saturday, June 24th I will be holding my first public book signing for "Heroes in Our Midst from the Pages of The Valley Patriot" at Mann Orchards in Methuen (from 11-2pm). The next day, Sunday, June 25th I will be at the Farmer's Market in North Andover at CVS Plaza on Main St. from 10-2pm. This book is a compilation of short stories and interviews with local veterans that were previously published on the front pages of the Valley Patriot. Hope to see you all there!

SPONSOR BOOKS FOR VETS

I have a very hard time charging veterans who want copies of "Heroes in Our Midst" since I published this book to honor their service and sacrifice. So, my crack staff here at the office came up with the brilliant idea to have businesses or individuals sponsor a book for a veteran. For every book purchased to be donated for a veteran, we will put your name or business name in the inside cover above my signature and personalized message to each veteran. Contact us here at the office if you would like to sponsor books for veterans (978) 771-4091 or email me at valleypatriot@aol.com.

NORTH ANDOVER
FARMER'S MARKET

Thanks to the efforts of Chris Allen, Phil DeCologero, Lowell Five Bank, and a group of local business owners and activists, North Andover will hold its first Farmer's Market starting this month. Each Sunday, starting June 25th local farmers will offer a variety of locally grown produce from 10-2pm.

SPONSOR OUR LIVE COVERAGE
OF THE CRIME IN LAWRENCE

I've been covering the crime in Lawrence for a long time. Since long before I started this paper. With the development of new technology, I've been able to start live podcasting from the scenes of shootings, stabbings and other assorted mayhem going on in the city. Giving my readers and social media followers a chance to see in real time, the goings on in Lawrence, has resulted in several businesses requesting an opportunity to sponsor a live feed. My plan is create my own YouTube channel and share it out on all social media platforms. This month I will be making our live video feeds available for sponsorship. Email me at valleypatriot@aol.com. Go to my video gallery on my personal facebook page to see previous feeds and ask yourself... wouldn't it be great if all those people who watched these feeds knew it was being sponsored by your business, event, organization or non profit.

The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation based in Lake Forest, Illinois, has donated $10,000 to The Psychological Center, Inc. – Daybreak Shelter in support of empowering people to reclaim their lives by providing food, shelter, mental health services, addiction counseling, and life skills to those in need. Left to Right – Tara Lally, Case Worker; Greg Davenport, Assistant Program Director; Andy Dionne, Manager, Branch Network, Grainger; Andy McMahon, Program Director; Carina Pappalardo, CEO.

MEDFLIGHT COPTER SHOT AT,
MEDFLIGHT ISSUES BIZARRE
PRESS RELEASE

Last week a fight on Boxford Street in Lawrence resulted in six people being stabbed. One was stabbed in the chest, another stabbed in the face twice. After the victims were transported to the hospital we heard the police call to the helipad at Lawrence General for shots fired at or near the helicopter taking off from the helipad.

After going to the scene, talking to witnesses, monitoring the police radio, speaking to first responders and medical employees, I reported that the Medflight helicopter had "been shot at" with a myriad of sources to back up my report.

Oddly, the next day Medflight issued a press release saying that while they did not see the shooter, they heard the shots near the helipad. They followed that up with a blanket declarative that the helicopter was "NOT" shot at. Now, I'm not in the habit of picking a fight with people who literally save people's lives every day, but this just made no sense. If they didn't see the shots, and they know it was near the helipad, how can they know the direction of travel of the bullets? For sure, the helicopter was not hit, thank heavens for that, but this one was a head scratcher. Coincidentally the police chief in Lawrence issued a press release the next day using very similar wording and quotations. Seems like someone wanted to make sure the Boston press didn't pick up on the explosive story of a medflight helicopter being shot at in Lawrence because it would make the city look bad. But, it didn't work, Boston 25 did pick up on the story.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES

Does Donald Trump believe in Global warming? Who CARES? The so called news media and their Democratic Party bosses have obsessed about whether or not Donald Trump "believes in global warming". After all, according to CNN Democrat spokesman Jake Tapper, to not believe in global warming is "Just a big box of crazy". But, they don't care about whether the Paris Agreement actually works at reducing pollution. They don't care about whether or not it actually helps the environment. They have spent zero time explaining what the Paris Agreement is or the fact that the agreement doesn't clean up one toxic site or polluted waterway. That's because liberals, in general, care more about what you believe, what you call things and that you are on board with their narrative. SO, does it matter that Donald Trump believes in "global warming" NO. What matters is that he helps clean up our rivers and streams, punishes those responsible for poisoning our food and our air, and dedicates resources to cleaning up actual pollution. I believe cleaning up real pollution is more important than spending all that money on "programs" that MIGHT reduce carbon by .0001% ... and will take 100 years to do it.

*AROUND THE VALLEY *

FBI Offers $5,000 Reward for Fugitive Diego Barros Pires ~ ARMED AND DANGEROUS!

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Boston Division's Southeastern Massachusetts Gang Task Force and the ATF Boston Field Division are seeking the public's assistance in locating Diego Barros Pires, an alleged member of a violent street gang in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Diego Barros Pires, a known member of a violent Brockton street gang, is wanted for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of one adult and two minors in Brockton and Quincy, Massachusetts, on October 8, 2016. On March 22, 2017, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Pires in the United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts, after he was charged with kidnapping and aiding and abetting.

On March 22, 2017, Diego Pires, also known as "Smurf" or "Do It" was indicted, along with three other associates, and an arrest warrant was issued out of U.S. District Court in Boston, Massachusetts. Pires was charged with kidnapping, and aiding and abetting. He is wanted for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of one adult and two minors in Brockton and Quincy, Massachusetts. Pires is considered armed and dangerous.

Pires is a 24-year-old Cape Verdean male who is a legal U.S. citizen, with black hair and brown eyes. He is 5'8" in height and weighs approximately 160 pounds. He last resided at 5 Madrid Square, Apartment 7, Brockton, Mass.

Pires has two tattoos; one on his right forearm that says "RIP Johnny," the other on his left forearm that says "Kyle."

The FBI is currently offering a monetary reward of up to $5,000 for information leading to his location and arrest.

A wanted poster, including photographs of the subject and his tattoos, can be viewed on valleypatriot.com.

Anyone with information regarding his current whereabouts should call the FBI Boston Division at 1-857-386-2000. Tips can also be electronically submitted at tips.fbi.gov.

"Mr. Pires is considered armed and dangerous and we believe he poses a serious danger to the public. At this point in time, we've exhausted all investigative leads in locating him and we're asking anyone with information about his whereabouts to contact law enforcement," said Harold H. Shaw, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division.

The FBI's Southeastern Massachusetts Gang Task Force is composed of the following agencies: the FBI, the Massachusetts State Police, and Brockton Police Department.

CITIZENSHIP & ENGLISH CLASSES

State Rep. Frank Moran has secured $50K for English as a Second Language classes and Citizenship classes. As part of the Massachusetts House of Representatives FY18 budget bill passed just weeks ago, Moran secured an earmark of $50,000 for Casa Dominica, a "nonprofit" that over the years has been able to assist hundreds of community members in providing them with computer classes, English as a Second Language, and Citizenship classes.

"Learning English is of great significance because it opens many doors to opportunities. Once the language is acquired, families are able to progress and improve living conditions, whether that is continuing with higher education or even being able to assist

June Course Offerings
Red Cross Adult & Ped. First Aid, CPR, AED
June 22, 2017, 10 am to 2 pm, $110 per person
Red Cross Babysitter Training w/ Ped. First Aid , CPR
June 23, 2017, 9 am to 3:30 pm, $125 per person
MAP Training (Medication Administration Program)
June 27-30, 2017, 9 am to 2:30 pm, $300 per person
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FREDDIE SAYS

"It is very important to recognize the amazing nurses at Lawrence General Hospital who handle all these gunshot victims in Lawrence every day."

Freddie also Says
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their child with homework" said Representative Moran.

SONS OF ITALY 2017 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS NIGHT

The Methuen Sons of Italy, Lodge 902 held their Scholarship Awards Night last month. These awards are given to students whose parents or grandparents are members of the Sons of Italy Lodge #902.

Dottie Crisa introduced the presenters of the 2017 Scholarships: Joe Salvo, Adult Supervisor gave out the first Jr. Division Scholarship for $1,000 to Marissa Rumore; Ralph Bagarella, President of our Lodge, presented the next $1,000 scholarship to Domenic Privitera; Pio Frittitta, Chairman of our CCT presented the next $1,000 scholarship to John Privitera and Joe Cunha, Trustee gave out a very special Italian American Toilers Scholarship Fund Award for $1,500 to Stanley Wotjas. This award was funded by the Italian American Toilers Milk Fund – the organization has been disbanded and their donation to our scholarship fund is greatly appreciated.

BOAT TOURS BAKERS ISLAND LIGHT

Beginning on Saturday, June 17, Essex Heritage will be hosting escorted, guided boat tours aboard landing craft, Naumkeag, to Bakers Island Light Station! Bakers Island Light Station is ONLY accessible to the public through these tours with Essex Heritage –and the trip to the light station is sure to be an adventure!

Boat tours to Bakers Island Light will be offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with departures at 10:30AM and 2 PM, from Saturday, June 17 through Monday, September 4 (Labor Day). Essex Heritage will also offer new trips and experiences throughout the summer including lobster tours, en plain air painting trips, and wild edibles hikes. As a special pre-opening-day voyage, Essex Heritage will take 18 passengers on Naumkeag to see the Tall Ships arrive in Boston on Friday, June 16th.

LAWRENCE GENERAL HOSPITAL NURSES RECOGNIZED

At a special Nurses Week luncheon held at Lawrence General Hospital on May 11th, chief nursing officer, Karen Moore, RN, announced the recipients of the inaugural Lawrence General nursing awards. Nominated by their peers, these individuals were recognized for their professionalism, clinical expertise, and ongoing dedication to the patients of Lawrence General.

Nursing Award Recipients

• Christina Berard, RN, Medical/Surgical— Clinical Leader Award (Newton, NH)

• Faith Cruz, RN, Maternal Child Health — Mentorship Award (Methuen)

• Stacy Justice, RN, Telemetry — Novice Nurse Award (Haverhill)

• Abigail Wertz, RN, Emergency Center — Compassion Award (Bradford)

• Elaine Ziminsky, RN, IV Team — Nursing Engagement Award (Chelmsford)

PTSD AWARENESS CONCERT IN MEMORY OF THOMAS DUBOIS

Friday, July 14th from 6PM – 12 midnight at the Salem NH VFW Post 8546. 42 N Broadway, Salem, New Hampshire 03079.

GLTS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN POETRY CONTEST

Superintendent John Lavoie has announced that three Greater Lawrence Technical School students were recognized in the Memorial Hall Library Teen Poetry Contest.

The students were honored for their entries in the 13th annual contest, and were invited to read their poems aloud.

The three GLTS students' work was chosen from over 300 contest entries, which were first judged by Teen Librarians Renata Sancken and Anna Tschetter before being passed along to published poet Gayle Heney for the final judging.

The students, all of whom are freshmen from Lawrence, earned the following honors:

Roandy Herrera— Honorable Mention for "I Am From Mom"

Kaylee Sostre — Honorable Mention for "Growing Up, Lawtown"

Vinny Tetiva — Teen's Choice Award for High School for "The Misunderstood Hood". Judging for the Teen's Choice Award was done by teenagers connected to the Teen Room at the Memorial Hall Library.

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE VALLEY

Methuen resident Jennifer Burns has been named one of 2016's "Unsung Heroines" by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, in honor of her work addressing the opioid epidemic in the Merrimack Valley.

Burns will be honored at a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House on Wednesday, June 21 at 1pm in the Great Hall.

The Unsung Heroine initiative identifies and honors extraordinary women from across the Commonwealth. Burns was nominated for the recognition by State Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen).

"Through her work with the Methuen Police Department's C.A.R.E.S. Initiative and Lawrence's New Beginnings Peer Recovery Center, Jennifer has helped countless addicts in the region, connecting them with detox programs and providing them with the resources needed to successfully recover," said DiZoglio. "Jennifer has greatly educated the community on the substance abuse crisis, worked to decrease stigma surrounding addiction and has been a true leader in bringing citizens across the Merrimack Valley together to raise awareness and promote both prevention and treatment of substance use."

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AT CARRIAGE BARN

Kensington, NH: The Carriage Barn, with the support of the Exeter Hospital Foundation, is offering scholarships for its Youth Suicide Prevention Program this summer. Weekly sessions run late June through mid-August. Each session will have a limited number of participants.

The program focuses on working with preteen and adolescents. This is an inclusionary program where people come to have a good time, learn to work with horses, collaborate with others, and gain skills to work

NOTEBOOK: 20

THE PEST END GIRLS

ANTS!

With an unusually cool and rainy May behind us, we are all looking forward to warmer temperatures and the sunny days of summer. However, with this change in season comes an influx of pests that also thrive in these conditions. In particular, ants are extremely active during the summer months. They are able to enter through the tiniest openings of your residence or business and often nest out of sight in walls, storage rooms, and the landscaping surrounding a building. Once ants gain entrance into a building, they leave an invisible pheromone trail for others in their colony to follow. There can be hundreds, if not thousands, of them to follow.

So if you find these pests in your home or business, should you worry that they are dangerous to family members, employees, clients or even to the structure itself? The answer really depends on the type of ants and the region of the country you live in. For the purpose of this article, we will discuss the ants most commonly found in the New England region.

• Carpenter Ants can infest any building in the Northeast and cause fairly significant damage to the wood structure that they have taken up residence in. Carpenter ants can chew through different types of wood and can damage areas of your home such as a wooden deck. Carpenter ants can also ruin elements in your landscaping by chewing through wood in retaining walls or compromising the health of you garden.

• Common House Ants do have the ability to carry bacteria, dirt and pathogens on their body. Since they crawl over food and areas of the kitchen where homeowners prepare food, it is possible that they can transfer those unhealthy germs. Although ants are not usually considered a public health risk, they can contaminate food. They can taint any food, making it unsuitable to eat.

The best course of action is to eliminate and exclude ants from your home by calling Pest-End Exterminator's and Pro-Tech Lawn Care. We have many years of experience in getting rid of pests from homes in our region. As we frequently say, "We Make Ants Say Uncle."

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BREAKING NEWS!

VALLEY PATRIOT NAMES 2017 BEST DISH AT TASTE OF METHUEN

ROYAL HOUSE OF ROAST BEEF

1st PLACE ROAST BEEF

2nd PLACE
Apple Crisp

MANN ORCHARDS

GLTS FOUR WINDS/CULINARY ARTS
3rd PLACE Clam Chowder

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Salisbury Beach Partnership, Inc. Committee members are prepping the wood trash receptacles for their summer facelift. If you know a local artist or student who would like to contribute their talents by designing and painting one of the barrels for our local beach center, message us on our Facebook page!

HAMPTON BEACH CASINO JUNE-JULY

THE MONEY MAN COMETH

Doors open at 6:00pm!

Friday, June 9th EVERCLEAR with Vertical Horizon and Fastball 7:00pm Show *Tickets are $31.00 in Advance and $36.00 Day of the show.

Friday, June 16th RATT with The Cringe and Red Sky Mary 8:00pm Show *Tickets are $30 in Advance and $35 Day of the show.

Thursday June 22nd 2017 BARENAKED LADIES **SOLD OUT!!

Sunday, June 25th HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR 2017 8:00pm Show (Seated Admission) *Ticket prices range from $30.00 up to $60 Groups performing include: The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie, Chuck Negron formerly of Three Dog Night, The Association, The Cowsills, The Box Tops and The Archies Ron Dante

Saturday, July 1st BADFISH! A Tribute to Sublime with special guests Roots of Creation 8:00pm Show *Tickets $19.00 in Advance and $23 Day of the show.

Wednesday, July 5th ZIGGY MARLEY 8:00pm Show *Tickets are $31.00 in Advance and $36.00 Day of the show.

Thursday, July 6th DAUGHTRY 8:00pm Show *Tickets are $43.00 in Advance and $48.00 Day of the show.

Friday July, 7th UNITY TOUR 2017 311 with New Politics and The Skints 7:30pm Show *Tickets $51.00 in Advance and $56.00 Day of the show

Friday July, 14th EDDIE MONEY 8:00pm Show (Seated Admission) *Tickets prices range from $20 up to $60

Salisbury Beach Events

Fri, Jun 23rd, 7PM - Doo Wop DJ Concert at the Salisbury Beach Stage

Sat, Jun 24th 3PM Country Beach Jam

Sat, Jun 24th 10:15PM Fireworks Over the Ocean

Fri, Jun 30th, 7PM Doo Wop DJ Concert

Fri, Jun 30th - Tue, Jul 4th 7:30PM Salisbury Beach Fourth of July Celebrations

Sat, Jul 1st, 7:30PM B-Street Bombers

Sat, Jul 1st, 10:15PM Fireworks Over the Ocean

Mon, Jul 3rd, 6PM Salisbury Beach Pet Parade, Salisbury Beach Center

Tue, Jul 4th, 7:30PM Joppa Flatts

Tue, Jul 4th, 10:15 PM Fourth of July Fireworks Display

Fri, Jul 7th, 7PM Doo Wop DJ Concert

Sat, Jul 8th, 7:30 PM James Montgomery

Sat, Jul 8th, 10:15PM Fireworks Over the Ocean

LAWRENCE: FROM PAGE 5

into your receptacle? It will happen.

Let's hope that an ordinance doesn't get pushed through in one of the irregularly scheduled meetings the council has during the summer, like the infamous "Trust Act". Since it doesn't have to appear on the agenda as new business, even a person who follows the council could easily miss the whole process.

Mayoral Race Rundown: I divide the candidates into four categories, the incumbent, the carpetbaggers, the "the most important thing is that Lawrence has a Hispanic mayor" crew, and William Green. Throw out the middle two categories and you have Mayor Rivera or William Green.

To be sure, Mr. Green is a controversial candidate, but he's the only mayoral candidate I know of who has said we have to stop thinking of ourselves as Dominican or Puerto Rican or Anglo and start thinking of ourselves as American. He holds conservative values, isn't bankrolled by special interests, and has good ideas.

Many people whom I respect vehemently disagree with me. William Green has certainly made mistakes, but he should not be immediately discounted and deserves a closer look. It's going to be a long, hot summer; hang on to your hats!

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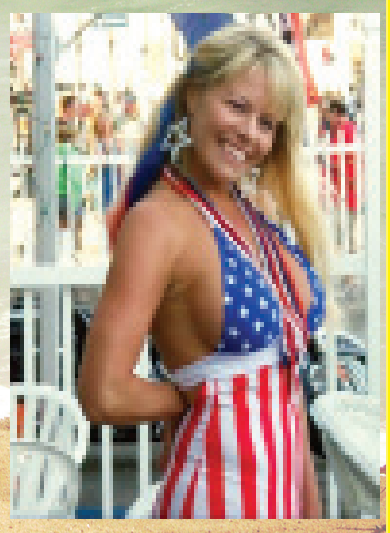

8 Ocean Front, Salisbury Beach, MA

Pictured Left to Right In The Lions "Yellow Vests" are Lowell Lions Club Veteran Members Jackie Lussier Lucille Irvin and Dave Shaughnessy.. Dishing Out the Pizza for the Members of the Lowell Senior Center. The Lions Club Besides Providing The Pizza ....Also Provided The Soft Drinks and Music for the Lowell Seniors Listening and Dancing Pleasure..... Over 90 Lowell Seniors Enjoyed the Festivities

Given AAA Traffic Safety Awards

Norcross reported the reduction in reportable crashes that has been achieved over the past three years in Salem, NH and on the success of their TV show, Salem Police Beat, which focuses on a variety of safety issues.

Please join AAA in congratulating Chief Mark Gagnon of the Amesbury Police Department, Superintendent Ken Gavallee of the Lowell Police Department and Chief Paul Donovan of the Salem Police Department for their outstanding efforts in making our communities and roadways safer for everyone.

AAA looks forward to hosting Departments throughout the Merrimack Valley at the AAA Annual Community Traffic Safety Awards Luncheon on June 15, 2011 at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover at 11:30 a.m. During the luncheon, the chief and/or a designated officer will give a brief overview of the safety programs they consider to be the most innovative and successful in their town.

AAA Merrimack Valley is a not-for-profit auto club with 6 offices in the Merrimack Valley providing more than 230,000 local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related

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Families of Murder Victims Providing Support

Families of Homicide Victims Meet Once a Month in Lowell

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

A support group for family members of murder victims meets in Lowell on the second Tuesday of every month to help those dealing with their heart wrenching loss. The group meets on the second floor boardroom of Lowell General's Saints Campus.

"We are called Parents of Murdered Children, but we should really be called Family Members of Murder Victims because any murder victim's family can come to us for support," said Arnie Muscovitz the Merrimack Valley Chapter leader.

"A lot of people who have lost a sister or other family member tell me they don't come to our meetings because of the name and their family member wasn't a child. We are here to listen, and we are here to help no matter what the relation was."

Muscovitz and his wife Alice know all too well what families of murder victims go through. Their daughter, Karen, was brutally strangled and murdered in Melbourne, Florida in January of 2004. Her killer was Travis Lee Edwards.

Edwards was given two life sentences in prison but his conviction was overturned on procedural issues, and he will not be tried again because he is considered mentally ill.

"It just never ends," Muscovitz says. "She was murdered in 2004 and we are still dealing with all this. He will never be retried because of a law in Florida that says if you are considered mentally ill for more than five years you cannot be tried. We are still dealing with a court system that cares more about protecting criminals than the victims they leave behind."

Travis Lee Edwards was the twin brother of Karen's boyfriend at the time.

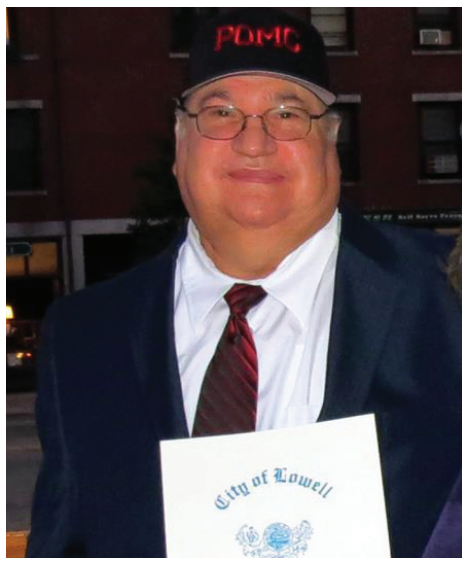
"It's just so hard," Muscovitz said holding back tears. Several members of POMC told The Valley Patriot "they treat us like we are observers who just walked in off the streets and decided to watch a trial. Nobody tells us what's happening. What little they do tell us, is so convoluted that you can't understand half of it."

One family member said that dealing with the court system and watching the process made them feel sick as if their family member was "being killed all over again."

"There is no justice and it seems people like it that way," Muscovitz said.

"Nobody does anything to change it. When a family member is murdered it's hard enough, but then it gets dragged through the media and through a courtroom where the killers have all the rights and all the comforts. Imagine they can't try this guy again because he's mentally ill. My daughter is dead. He is a danger to everyone he comes into contact with. Her memory means nothing, while his needs are catered to. That's just not right. It's not."

Muscovitz says that the group he meets with each month are "not experts at this stuff. We are not trained psychologists or anything like that. But, what we do know is what we experienced. There are a lot of



people going through this every day for the first time. Every day it seems another person is being killed. That's one more family every day, maybe more. We want them to know there's a place they can come and just talk. We will stay as long as we need to."

Drug Traffickers, VISA Reform And Making Us Safer

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REP. METHUEN, HAVERHILL

As a State Representative who represents a district vibrant with the contributions and citizenship of immigrants, I want to share thoughts I have about how we might advocate for policies at the federal level which are so necessary right now to achieve positive results given the scourge of drug trafficking in our area. We do need comprehensive immigration reform, but such a goal is a very steep climb given the current discord and partisan dysfunction in Washington D.C. There are, however, incremental policies to move forward that would likely be acceptable to most of us.

One very alarming aspect of President Trump's Executive Orders regarding immigration is that they shall not accomplish what they purportedly set out to do.

Some of the cases of home wrecking (families separated through deportation for dubious and paltry reasons) now sprouting up in the news are an embarrassment to the United States of America. Many appear to have been deported, causing their separation from their American citizen family members, for reasons unknown or minor crimes that cause no concern for the public's safety.

Please don't think me soft or naïve – formerly an Army intelligence officer supporting the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, I understand there are very serious threats out there and that effective countermeasures are necessary to protect our country. Here are some incremental steps that could make us much safer.

First – Implement VISA CONTROLS. We cannot secure our borders and adequately protect the Nation's security without VISA controls that provide visibility of the foreigners that are in the United States. According to our own federal government, 400,000 foreigners overstayed or jumped their visas in 2015. Most of the 911 attackers were Saudi Arabians that had one thing in common -- all of them entered the United States legally, but most of them illegally overstayed or "jumped" their VISAs.

So, let us build a system that will keep terrorists, drug dealers and career criminals from entering the States on temporary visas, only to jump them, stay on illegally for many weeks or years, before launching attacks or selling illegal drugs that kill Americans and destroy neighborhoods. In regards to a wall on the Mexican Border, it is the most not liberal General George Patton that said, "Fixed fortifications are great monuments to man's stupidity" because a robust and active defense is what we need.

Second - Make foreign governments take their criminal citizens back when we deport them. Since at least 2001, many countries that we have diplomatic relations with have routinely refused to take their own felons back, individuals that have committed high crimes such as commercial drug trafficking; murder; rape; robbery and mayhem; etcetera. While our Government, especially the State Department, has long had coercive measures it could use to encourage the offending countries to do the right thing, they appear to have done little or nothing to solve this problem, a true threat to National Security. Perhaps the Congress should also pass legislation that would require these offending countries to pay compensation to those who are subsequently victimized by those that they have refused to take back or else suffer sure and significant negative consequences in their relations with the United States.

Third, require employers to utilize E-Verify to confirm the identities and status of everyone that is working for them. Such verification is essential to the just collection of income and social security taxes and for the protection of our citizens' identities. This will take the profit out of illegal immigration, both on the part of the migrants and the employers that deliberately hire them to cut costs. Based upon analysis of social security numbers and payroll records, it appears that a significant percentage of those employed at completing the "Big Dig" may have been undocumented individuals. Of course, to prevent dire related consequences, the universal use of E-Verify before almost all cases of employment needs to be a part of a comprehensive immigration reform.

Comprehensive immigration reform is clearly one of the most important challenges we face as it will reflect who we are as a nation. It needs to be vigorously

DRUGS: 20

Bringing Out the Worst in Lowell

John MacDonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

The question of where a new High School in Lowell should be built (or if it should be built) is bringing the worst out of politicians, neighbors and former friends. What's becoming as close to a civil war as you could possibly get within the borders of Lowell, is pitting friends against friends, brother against brother and a neighborhood against neighborhoods.

It brings no joy to this writer's life to write or shine light on a project that is bringing the worst out of people in Lowell... a city I love and live in. What could have been a catalyst for unity and future growth has turned into what constitutes to watching a baby who's overdue for a diaper change. The tactics are likening itself to this past Presidential election cycle that coined the phrase of "Fake News". Bad information, rumors and flat out lies are being shoved out as fast as they can be made. The worst part is it seems to be coming at a big cost.

What might be the worst part of Lowell's civil war (besides jeopardizing future generations of Lowell) is the bad position that people who are supposed to be leaders are putting the hard-working city administration in to. Weekly the City Manager and his team are forced to defend itself against rumors, answer questions based on bad information and forced to endure political theater that belittles the process and the citizens that the city council has been elected to serve.

Now I've made it no secret where I stand in this whole hotly contested debate, which is that I am for not wasting money on an old, obsolete building located in the heart of what is and can be the mecca of Lowell's economic development hub and future economic boon. I'm not for the taking of successful businesses by eminent domain (Option 3 in LHS Gate) in a misguided attempt to portray this as "for the Greater Public Good" package. I'm not for hamstringing the City of Lowell for generations by doing nothing or for increasing taxes so badly, that people will legitimately ask why they don't just move to Concord or Lexington?

However, what I am for is… common sense. Right now, the best option is the one that either gets the current high school out of the downtown or dramatically reduces its footprint in the downtown. The option to build a new High School at Cawley Stadium seems to be the best option, based on common sense and would benefit the entire city… greatly. However, the political "Power" structure of the city resides on Clark Road (Belvidere) and represents a block of voters that come out in droves on Election Day. And guess what… they don't want Cawley and they are pulling out all the stops, gags, mistruths and full out lies to make sure it doesn't happen.

In my observation, there's the good guys and the bad guys in this ever changing "Days of our Lives" styled saga. Let's just use the old western movies to cast our villains in black hats and our heroes in white hats. So, as this saga unfolds I think it's time to develop the score card and identify who's wearing black and who's wearing white.

The Black Hats

Mayor Kennedy – Belvidere resident and anti-Cawley. The mayor has tried to throw every road block he can muster into the process, dealing in back door politics, emotional city council outbursts, to citing fictitious eminent domain takings of popular pizza shops. He's got an arsenal of made up stories that will only give him justification to delay a vote on the high school's final decision on location. (BLACK HAT)

City Councilor Corey Belanger – Corey has stabbed his base in the back. He might have the biggest black hat of them all, before this is done. He used to be the "Champion of downtown business" and being the point man in moving the high school out of the downtown. He used the downtown business mantra as a campaign promise and it propelled him into a seat at the council two terms ago. Well this might be his last term. He owned a business downtown

LOWELL: 11

Methuen School Committee Budget Reduces Budget

At our May 22nd Methuen School Committee meeting, members of the committee voted to approve an operating budget for fiscal year 2018 of $72 million, a decrease of 2% from last year's operating budget of $73.47 million. This is a positive development given the constraints of our city, but more still needs to be done to address overall city spending and the skyrocketing costs of retiree health insurance to ensure that essential services receive adequate funding in the future and that the burden does not continue to shift to taxpayers.

The FY 2018 school operating budget of $72 million is a decrease of 2% from last year's principle operating expenses of $73.47 million. The Methuen Schools Administrative Team should be commended for working to consolidate positions, reorganize employee job descriptions, and trim non-essential spending in order to reduce overall costs. The Methuen school department was the only department in the City of Methuen to request and receive less funding from last year. The Police, DPW, and Fire Departments all requested and received more money for next year than this past year.

It should be noted that this school department budget addresses school committee priorities, avoids layoffs, and maximizes resources in the classroom while still cutting overall spending.

In her message to the Methuen school committee, Superintendent Judy Scannell stated,

"This budget has been achieved through a combination of means: realignment of personnel, modification of programs, reduction in personnel which are unnecessary or inefficient, cuts in non-salaried items, and efficient budgeting at the school sites; all resulting in thoughtful use of very limited financial resources."

A partial listing of school committee priorities included not charging user fees for athletics and after-school activities, not charging user fees for bus transportation, managing facility and grounds maintenance, continuing to offer no-fee kindergarten, expanding the availability of technology, enhancing enrichment programs in the upper schools, and maintaining reasonable class sizes at all levels.

It should also be noted that the FY 2018 budget contains an additional $14,480,434 for city chargebacks to cover services and health care costs for school department retirees. The city chargebacks increased by 17.2% over last year. Health care costs statewide are spiraling out of control due to Romneycare and Obamacare mandates. I stated this clearly at our May 22nd meeting and because of these increases I voted against the line-item for city chargebacks and the final school department budget which included the chargeback figure even though I fully supported the line-item operating budget of $72 million for reasons explained earlier.

The City of Methuen needs to plan for these future increases in health care expenses. In fiscal year 2017, the school department paid 50% of retiree health insurance, in fiscal year 2018 it will pay 75%, and in fiscal year 2019, the school district will pay 100%. As I have written before, the city needs to place restrictions on new retiree health insurance benefits. Many communities require that employees work for the city or town for 10 or 20 years before becoming eligible for retiree health insurance benefits. What happens of course is that public employees come to Methuen from other cities and towns and retire here thus collecting the health benefits. I have requested a list from City Hall of all of the years of service of current retirees so as to ascertain what our savings could be by doing this and how many people are included. I did so under the Massachusetts Public Records Act. I was told that compiling this information would cost about $650 that I would have to pay out of pocket. So, I still do not know how many of our current retirees have worked for the city for more than 10 years. It is ridiculous that this information is not readily available.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the school department is doing its part to try to control costs in the city. Other departments should follow suit and examine areas where cuts can be made so that spending can be brought under control. All of our departments have a crucial role to play in maintaining public safety and providing essential services, but these need to be done at a price that taxpayers can afford to pay. The City of Methuen cannot sustain its long-term operations by continuously passing off higher costs to homeowners. As a community we need to live within our means by controlling costs and plan for the future by replenishing the Stabilization Fund, controlling retiree health care expenses, and lowering property taxes on homeowners.

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).

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CNN:FROM PAGE 3

points ahead of Donald Trump who has no path to victory at this point. Tonight we will have several panel discussions to talk about who President Hillary Clinton will pick for her cabinet.

BREAKING... CNN sources say Donald Trump will not accept the results of the election when he loses. Sources in the Trump campaign (code for Hillary Clinton told us) say that after the election Trump will continue his lie that elections can be rigged ... he's such a sore loser. Anyone who questions the integrity of the election is unpatriotic! He will probably blame the Russians, that's how pathetic he is.

Wait?? he ... WON?

That can't be right!

What if we just refuse to call Florida does he still get those votes?

There will have to be a recount, we know Hillary really won.

CNN BREAKING NEWS ... The Electoral College is going to overthrow the election results as CNN sources have learned that electors are changing their votes! Hillary is still going to be president!

WAIT... that didn't happen either?

They all voted the way they were supposed to?

BREAKING NEWS! Donald Trump is not a legitimate president. He didn't win the popular vote.

Trump will never build the wall on the Mexican border, it was all a bluff.

None of his campaign promises were real. That's just never going to happen.

Well, OK, he might build a wall but Mexico is NEVER going to pay for it...

Besides ...

Trump only won because America is sexist and not ready for a woman president.

Nobody's buying that?

Well, OK, then let's blame the FBI Director. It's James Comey's fault!

They aren't buying that either?

Ok, it was racism! Hillary only lost because of all the racists who voted for Trump. America is such a racist.

I KNOW… RUSSIA! YEAH! Russia is the reason Hillary lost. Trump is a secret Russian spy who is going to give the nuclear codes to Vladamir Putin and turn this country over to the Kremlin! AH HA!

****

And there you have it. For over a year, everything you were told to believe by CNN ... all of it ... was wrong. Every story was fake. Whether you like President Trump or you hate him, there is no excuse for the despicable behavior exhibited by the "news media" which is entrusted to deliver our news fairly and objectively every day.

LOWELL FROM PREV. PAGE

and was consistent in his open criticism of the adverse effect the High School had on downtown businesses. Well Corey has moved on and out of the downtown. Corey has magically decided that he's no longer a proponent of business and seems willing to flip the middle finger to the very people who got him elected. Back door deals and badgering old alliances have converted this weak-kneed councilor from a white hat to a black one. Enjoy the seat while it lasts (BLACK HAT).

City Councilor Jim Millanazo – He's actually saved the city council's proverbial butt on a few occasions that may have jeopardized the future of a new high school all together. He's made no bones about the fact that he's a solid "keep the high school downtown" and the heck away from Belvidere… proponent. The magic for Jim is that he's out… He's not running for re-election. So, Jim gets to wear what ever color hat he wants… (TAN HAT)

Here's a quick list of Black Hatters to keep an eye on…. The leaders of the "Downtown Option 3" brigade. They are everything and everyone from former city councilors, NIMBY enthusiasts to Sanctuary City proponents… more in future columns as this story unfolds.

Now for the White Hats.

The loud voices of the Belvidere residents part of the Pro-Cawley movement. Guys like Marty Tighe, Eric Nelson and new political candidates like Matt LeLaucher, Dan Finn, Noelle Creegan and Dan Shanahan. (WHITE HATS) all around.

Lowell City Councilors Danny Rourke, Rita Mercier, Jim Leary and Rodney Elliott. All seem against taking successful businesses… out of business. They have all in their own way contributed positively to the high school discussion with real facts and stay out of the shenanigans. Dealing in calm discussion and rational behavior these city councilors get big fat (WHITE HATS).

City Manager Murphy – Murphy and his team get white hats, simply because they are in the cross hairs. Because of the tone and negative mood created by the anti-Cawley crowd, the administration is on fulltime public relations mode. Losing a big business to Dracut that was destined for the Hamilton Canal project is now being blamed on the anti-business rhetoric coming from people like Councilor Belanger. Stab people and business in the back… they go elsewhere. (WHITE HATS)

DUNCE CAP

City Councilor John Leahy – John… oh John. He doesn't care about successful businesses getting the shaft and wastes time by making motions to move the high school into the last economic development area (Hamilton Canal) in the city. Let's take one of the last taxable properties away from the city… hello McFly? John? If your last name was Jones… you'd be living in Dracut. (DUNCE CAP)

SAILOR'S CAP

City Councilor William Samaras. I'm pretty sure that he'll stick with keeping the High School downtown. However, he's been professional and willing to listen. So, for now… its smooth sailing for Billy Boy. (SAILORS CAP) Stay tuned!

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Lawrence High School seniors Leslie Morerro and Christian Lantigua were awarded $1,000 each for college thanks to our Valley Patriot BASH contributors and volunteers who organized our 13th Anniversary BASH in March!

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Last month, the St. Alfio Society in Lawrence cooked dinner for the folks at Creative Living, a living facility for disabled adults in Andover.

We always have news spotters out on the streets who send us photos and information whenever something is happening in the valley. Thanks to our news spotters we are able to post real time info, pictures, and videos on Facebook and Twitter. This photo came from a news spotter who happened to be on Lawrence St. in Lawrence one evening last month to see this car crash into a pole requiring the jaws of life to extract the driver. He lived but was charged with driving to endanger as police believe he was racing when the accident happened.

Photograph by Benjamin Rasmussen for
TRUMP WHITE HOUSE
LIV
PRESIDENT GETS 2 SCOOPS OF ICE CREAM, EVERYONE ELSE 1
CNN
-11.27
S THESE CUSTOMERS CONTINUE TO BE COSTLIER THAN THE COMPANY EXP
NEWSROO

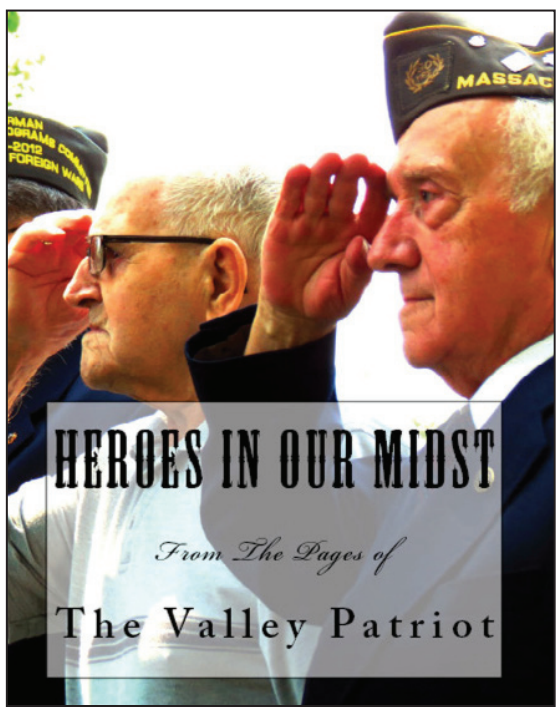
If there was any doubt that CNN has become the most trusted name in FAKE news this was it. Apparently there were no missing kids in America to report on, no fugitives on the run, no corruption at any level of government to investigate ... No, CNN has surrendered all pretenses of objectivity that even the number of ice cream scoops Trump gets is more important than real murder victims, real terrorism, and real news.

Book Signing for Heroes in Our Midst

From The Pages Of The Valley Patriot

Saturday, June 24th 11am – 2 pm
Mann Orchards, Methuen

Sunday, June 25th 10 am – 2 pm
North Andover Farmer's Market, CVS Plaza



Since March of 2004 the Valley Patriot has published the personal, first-hand accounts of more than 134 local veterans for a front page feature we call **"Valley Patriot of the Month, Heroes in Our Midst."** This book is a compilation of these short stories and interviews, complete with their own photos of their experiences. This book is available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and Kindle. Since the Valley Patriot does not charge veterans for this book, we have started a BOOKS FOR VETERANS program where local businesses or individuals can sponsor a book for a veteran for $24.99 each. Your name as the book donor will appear on the inside cover, and Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan will sign a personal message to each vet who receives it. You can mail a check to The Valley Patriot, PO BOX 453, North Andover, MA 01845 or EMAIL valleypatriot@aol.com or call 978-771-4091.

Beneath the Surface

Trump and the Religion of Progressivism

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

President Trump has withdrawn from the Paris climate agreement, asserting "I was elected to serve Pittsburgh, not Paris." One can judge for themselves whether or not it was a good move, but no one could have been surprised. Trump continues to make good on campaign promises to nullify what he considers to be bad deals and to "put America first".

In withdrawing from this agreement, President Trump demonstrated he is 'Pro-choice' on climate change regulation. The reaction from the Left was as predictable as when he announced he is 'Pro-life' on child-killing.

I have been an ecologist/environmentalist since before it was cool. The modern movement to dominate nature rather than to live in harmony with it is an attitude everyone ought to resist. However, the quality of hysteria trumpeting through the media about this Paris accord illustrates this is more than a concern for our environment to the "progressive" Left. It is a religion. Trump didn't just opt out of a treaty, he blasphemed a world religion.

When I say a 'world religion,' I mean a religion whose god is the world. It is unsurprising that when ethical monotheism of Judaism and Christianity is rejected, which brought to the world equality and respect for the dignity of the human person, a reversion back to pantheism would be in order. Pantheism, very popular in ancient times and still so in India and the Far East, believes all things are god. There is no distinction between Creator and creation. This means the earth is god, and we, as intelligent parts of the earth, are our own gods who create our own reality and morality according to our liking.

There is no objective meaning or purpose to life in the religion of the Left other than what we, the arbiters of truth, give it. So a "politically correct" language is created, acceptable to the high priests of the media and academia, to shape this religion's "reality" and support its trifold ethic: Be 'nice;' pretend there is no evil; and permit every behavior as long as there are consenting adults. If someone wakes up one day declaring they're the opposite sex, it is so. If some people declare sodomitic relationships as natural, we must accept this. If they decide each pregnant woman gets to defy science and define their child as a child whenever she wants, so be it. This temporary world is their heaven, various sexual perversions are their sacraments, and the central sacrifice of their faith is the 1.2 million preborn children slaughtered each year in the U.S. to the god of self. Human sacrifice was the norm with most pantheistic religions, and secular progressivism is no different.

In this religion of the Left that sees the earth as sacred, the great commandment has been changed from 'Love God and love your neighbor' to 'Love self and tolerate your neighbor.' Its chief moral precept to tolerate everyone and judge no behavior (contrary to the Christian love the sinner and hate the sin) is a living irony, since there is nothing but intolerance for believing Christians and condemnation for all who disagree with their moral doctrine of radical autonomy and moral license. If non-adherents of this religion of the Left do not conform and do not pretend that killing innocent children in the womb is okay, that a man who feels like a woman is a "she", that homosexual behavior is natural, or that marriage and family are whatever we decide – if anyone dares to challenge these or other sacred tenets of this religion of progressivism that desperately seeks to replace Christianity in the world – there is certain punishment.

This movement that has hijacked the media and academia right under our noses has grown to become one of the world's major religions. It is the post-Christian version of ancient paganism. This new paganism, however, does not have a childlike openness to truth like the ancient pantheists, but is stubbornly closed like a tired grumpy old man with dementia. The Left has lost its grasp of reality and its will to live, judging from the rapid depopulation crisis in post-Christian societies.

Yes, President Trump is 'Pro-choice' on climate change and 'Pro-life' on child-killing. The Progressive Left is the opposite. It has no problem killing babies while trying to save the planet, because, after all, we humans are the problem. The president is experiencing firsthand the wrath of this religion of intolerance to any dissent from "unenlightened" infidels.

Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Our Gay Youth

Dani Langevin
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

This past school year I've had the pleasure of enjoying a number of wonderful experiences. It was my first year teaching at Methuen High School, I won over a large group of students who were hell bent at the beginning of the year on hating me, and was co-adviser of the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). All of these have been incredibly humbling, educating, and rewarding. Earlier in the year I wrote a column expressing how impressed I was with the knowledge the members of the GSA had about their community and its diverse population of gay, straight, lesbian, pans, trans, bi, and so many others. It was quite an eye opening education for me. Most of these young men, women, and people meet the challenges of societal condemnation, confusion, and acceptance with courage and resolve. That being said, they are teenagers who are prone to be overly emotional and annoyingly self-involved, but I love them all for their youthful optimism.

On May 20th, my wife and I accompanied a number of the GSA members to the Boston Youth Gay Pride parade. We took the train into the city and descended upon Boston City Hall Plaza with a shrill level of excitement. This year's theme was "Stronger Together". Not nearly as big as the adult version of gay pride, it was still quite a good turnout. Everyone was donning their gay apparel, wearing all the colors of the rainbow, wrapped in the flag of their individual sexual identity, tutus, wigs, painted faces, high heels and Doc Martins. It was a visual cornucopia of queer folk.

We got there a few hours before the festivities started to check in and find out where our position would be in the parade. Much to my chagrin, but not surprise, nobody had registered us for the parade as my officers assured me we had been. However, because the LGBTQ+ community is incredibly opened minded and not as rigid about protocol, rules, and deadlines as our heterosexual counterpart is, they happily gave us a spot in the first wave of marchers. Awesome. We lined up under an arch of rainbow balloons and off we took to the streets of Boston. As soon as it began, so did the chants. "1,2,3,4 open up your closet door. 5,6,7,8 don't assume your kids are straight." My favorite was the gay version of Marco Polo. Someone screams, "Marco!" to which everyone replies, "Homo!" Love it.

I don't know if anyone in Boston came explicitly to see the parade, but being a major city, the streets were lined with onlookers clapping, cheering, filming, snapping pictures, or just looking a little confused. We had wonderful police escorts along the way and we were met with no sense of negativity at all. At one point, I stopped to attempt to take a picture of my rainbow flag flanked by the State House, but struggled. A very nice man with broken English offered to take my picture. Graciously I accepted. How wonderful perfect strangers can be, not just that one man, but also the thousands who supported us along the parade route.

We returned to City Hall Plaza where the after party began. Music was blaring, t-shirts and other memorabilia were bought and, like teenagers do, screaming, jumping, hugs and kisses commenced. I don't think I saw anyone without a smile on his, her or other face. At one point, one of my GSA members screamed, "I've made so many new friends today!" Isn't that what being a teen is all about?

Some of us took the 2:45 train home while others stayed a few hours more. We almost missed our train having to literally run through the streets of Boston to get there on time. Panting and sweaty, we collapsed in our seats with our newly purchased rainbow flags and t-shirts. It was a quiet ride home. We all agreed that we had a good time and are looking forward to returning next year.

I am blessed in so many ways: I'm gay, in love, I love my job and I get to mentor the LGBTQ+ youth of Methuen.

Who could ask for more?

Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at dblangevin@aol.com

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AG Healey Gives Big Swamp Reptiles a Pass on Crime and Corruption

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Last month in this space I reported clearly on sweetheart no-bid contracts between the Board of Registration in Medicine and the Massachusetts Medical Society which the Society uses to coerce thousands of dollars out of doctors under the threat of the Board taking their medical license away if they do not pay the Society. Your classic kleptocracy.

I also wrote that never in the history of this planet have sweetheart deals not involved corrupt bribes and secret kickbacks to state officials, especially in this here Massachusetts.

Maura Healey's office claims to desire people filing criminal complaints about crimes. I filed a criminal complaint about the corrupt bribe-oiled sweetheart no-bid contract between the Board and the Medical Society and how it seemingly renews automatically at some secret time without ever being put through an open competitive bidding process.

I also informed Maura's office that procurement fraud as practiced by the Board consciously violates a state regulation - 801 CMR 21.0.

Very soon after I filed my criminal complaint, Maura's office sent me an anonymous letter declaring that she will not investigate procurement fraud between the State Board and the Medical Society.

Around the same time that Maura decided to protect the no-bid contracts and sweetheart bribes between the Board and the Medical Society, she declared an official investigation of a charter school that banned hair extensions in the interest of keeping the students focused on academics and learning, as opposed to on fashion.

Around the same time that Maura decided to protect the no-bid contracts and sweetheart bribes between the Board and the Medical Society, she chased after and prosecuted to the fullest a poor white single mother, Mary Yost, for seeking help from the government to care for her autistic disabled child.

Around the same time that Maura decided to protect the no-bid contracts and sweetheart bribes between the Board and the Medical Society, she declared that she would investigate addict brokers who recruit patients for rehab clinics down in Florida. After all, Maura has declared herself committed to felonious drug addicts and mortally opposed to law-abiding patients with genuine chronic pain.

Maura just could not bring herself to come to the aid of Dr. Michael Langan though. As he is a devout family-minded Catholic doctor who has been clobbered into penury by the Medical Society and the Board, naturally Maura Healey could not be bothered to lift a finger. Wrong victim, you see.

Publicly railing against white single mothers or clinics down in Florida carries no personal political risk. The local press is only eager to highlight these actions as Maura bravely protecting us from evil.

Going after the Massachusetts Medical Society on the other hand is unpalatable. After all Maura is in bed with them. The Society, allegedly an independent non-governmental organization that allegedly supports doctors, has even created a special course to officially support Maura's gun control efforts.

massmed.org/News-and-Publications/Vital-Signs/MMS,-AG-Healey-Partner-for-Gun-Safety/#.WSw0cbt_T1s

A medical society in bed with the government is not new of course. The Alabama Medical Association was in bed with the government for forty years. A long and fruitful collaboration, like most such partnerships, though for some reason Alabama's society does not mention it anymore: http://www.alamedical.org/Search?SearchTerms=tuskegee

And the relationship between the Massachusetts Medical Society and the state Board is more than a political collaboration; it is a contractual relationship, however murky. The Society is a vendor, a contractor, an agent of the state that carries out a function that the state has out-sourced via a kleptocratic no-bid procurement contract that Maura does not wish to touch. It is impossible to tell where the Massachusetts Medical Society ends and where the Massachusetts government begins.

Far easier for Maura to look tough by further crushing an already impoverished struggling single mother such as Mary Yost, than by sending officials from the state Board and the Medical Society to prison for forensic crime, felony extortion and procurement fraud.

If anyone wants to know what a corrupt swamp is, this is what it is, and these are the reptiles within.

So, the question then becomes, will Acting U.S. Attorney William Weinreb lift a finger to drain this swamp? Given his long association with that other swamp reptile, Carmen Ortiz, there would seem no chance of that happening. Carmen, readers may recall, hounded Aaron Swartz to death on behalf of Hollywood and Obama but refused to prosecute Maura Healey for the same crime.

Then again we can always hope this country finally becomes truly federal and a new U.S. Attorney is appointed with no local relationships at all, say from Oklahoma or Kansas. If we are going to be federal then let's be federal, dammit!

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a neurologist who specializes in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroplex@gmail.com

ROBIN'S KITTY CORNER

Fostering Kittens

Robin Desmet
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNIST

In my opinion, fostering is one of the most fun and rewarding aspects of volunteering with animals. There is nothing like opening the door to my foster room and getting greeted by 6 fluffy kittens all vying for my attention. It brings me such joy to see them grow and learn and thrive before sending them off to their new homes.

But fostering is much more than playing with kittens all day. Foster parents perform an important function for animal shelters. By offering up their homes, fosters make it possible for shelters to help even more animals. Fostering opens up more spaces for the animals that need to be cared for in the shelter and for animals currently up for adoption. In addition, many smaller rescue organizations are completely foster based. Foster parents care for the animals in their homes and meet with potential pet adopters for "meet and greet" sessions.

Animals end up in foster care for many reasons. Young kittens without a mother need to be bottle fed around the clock. Older kittens that are able to eat solid food are kept in foster care until they are old enough to be spayed or neutered and adopted out. Foster parents help to socialize the kittens so that they make better pets. Keeping young kittens in a foster home also decreases their exposure to pathogens, and helps prevent kittens with low immunity from getting sick.

Some animals end up in foster care because they are sick and need extra care and/or medication. They need to be quarantined in a dedicated room in the foster home where they can receive the care they need without getting other animals sick. Other animals need help with behavior or training or are too nervous to remain in a shelter situation.

Becoming a foster parent requires some careful consideration. Before you start fostering you need to decide what type of animals you are willing to foster and which animals you are qualified to care for. Are you interested in bottle babies? Kittens? Animals that require medication or special needs animals? You will need to have a room in your home that is separate from your own animals and large enough for your fosters. Do you have enough time to care for a foster animal?

For the most part, supplies such as food, cat litter, cages (if necessary), will be provided by the shelter. Medical costs and vet visits are also covered by the shelter. Many organizations also offer training classes to help make you more comfortable and competent with fostering different types of animals.

Fostering animals is more than just providing space for an animal in your home. It can be hard work and requires a commitment of time. You are not only responsible for daily care, but you need to be available to shuttle cats to various vet appointments for vaccines, checkups, and/or sick visits. Also, you are the eyes and ears on that animal. Small kittens can go downhill very quickly. They must be weighed daily and you need to observe signs of sickness such as diarrhea, vomiting, or any changes in eating behavior.

I consider it an honor to be a foster parent. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a hissing, scared kitten turn into a lovable, adoptable pet and knowing that it is your hard work and dedication that has facilitated that transition. So, if you have any interest, contact your local shelter and ask about fostering. And don't forget—it can be really fun to play with kittens all day.

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THE PAIN OF INFLAMMATION ~ FEELING HEALTHY WITH RICKY B.

Rick Bellanti
VALLEY PATRIOT HEALTH COLUMNIST

Inflammation is the body's response telling you something is not right and you have a medical issue that's harmful or irritating to a part of our body. There are five signs of inflammation, Pain (with sensitivity), Redness, Swelling (caused by fluid retention), Heat (because of more blood flowing to the affected area) and Immobility (losing function of the inflamed area). When you have inflammation you may feel discomfort, pain and stiffness depending on the severity of it.

Your risk of having inflammation is much greater if you are overweight. Studies have found that patients who are overweight and unfit had a raised level of white blood cells which will lead to inflammation and discomfort and that it could also lead to other illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. Your BMI (Body Mass Index) has a direct link to your white blood cells and losing weight and adding in exercise are two direct ways in lowering your inflammation pain. Even though there is no test to find inflammation, you could have a blood test to see what is your white blood cell count as well as your BMI number.

What we put in our bodies as a regular diet has a direct link to inflammation in our bodies. Here are some of the foods we ingest almost on a daily basis that could be causing your inflammation. Sugar and its other names such as Sucrose and Fructose, found in many process foods such as candy, pastries, sodas and fruit juices. Saturated fats, which are foods that mainly come from animal sources, like fatty beef, lamb, pork and full fat dairy products like whole milk and cheeses. Many baked goods and fried foods can contain high levels of saturated fats. Trans fats, found in fried foods, fast foods and also snack foods like crackers and donuts. Omega 6 Fatty Acids, (surprised me too) because they are an essential fatty acid that the body needs for normal growth and development, but watch the amounts, too much omega 6, may cause inflammation. Refined Carbohydrates, like white bread (white flour), cereals, rice and white potatoes, which are all high-glycemic index foods and will stimulate inflammation. Mono-Sodium Glutamate also known as MSG, which is a flavor enhancer. Gluten, is grain and found in wheat, rye and barley. Aspartame, is an artificial sweetener found in many products including diet sodas (Stay Away!). Alcohol, interacts with many organs in your body (especially your liver). Please use in moderation or eliminate from your diet altogether.

By changing our bodies make up from an acidic state (having an acidic body creates an unwanted environment where illness thrives) to an alkaline state, will help in reducing pain, boost energy and ward of illness. I'm not sure if we can ever eliminate inflammation altogether in our bodies but we can certainly help with the pain and onset of attacks, to help us lead a more pain free productive life.

Studies have recently shown that poor sleep habits, including the quality and duration of sleep in individuals show higher levels of inflammation in the body, so get your 8 hours in.

We can start by changing our diets, such as adding more fresh organic fruits and vegetables and whole grains, low fat dairy, more nuts (like almonds) and having chicken and fish, replacing red meats. You can also add anti-inflammatory spices or supplements to your diet such as turmeric, cinnamon, ginger and cayenne, to name a few.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240 lbs, and has lost 160 lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis

Herman's Hermits

Cindy Annis
VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

I hope you enjoyed last month's column as much as I've enjoyed sharing it with you. On June 11, at Carry Hall in Lexington Massachusetts at 7:00 PM, people will be able to rediscover the music of Peter Noone. So, take a musical journey with me, as I tell you the story of Herman's Hermits.

The naming of the band is very interesting. One night, Peter Noone was with the members of the band, and put his glasses on backwards. They all thought he looked a lot like Sherman from the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoon. Sherman was shortened to Herman, and the members were the Hermits. Thus, the name Herman's Hermits.

Herman's Hermits was a mashup of two groups. Members from a group called the Heartbeats, which included a fifteen-year-old Peter Noone on piano and lead vocals, Keith Hopwood on guitar, Karl Green who was also on guitar and harmonica. Alan Wrigley, on bass, and Steve Titterington on drums, were the original members of Herman's Hermits. Derek Leckenby who played lead guitar and Barry Whitwam playing drums joined later from another group called the Wailers.

Like most groups, they were discovered after performing in a club. Their manager Harvey Lisberg, sent a post card to their soon to be producer Mickie Most asking him to see the band live at the Beachcomber in Bolton, UK. After hearing the performance, most wanted to just sign Noone on as a solo artist, but Peter Noone refused to leave the rest of the band behind. It was the whole group or nothing.

Their first hit song was "I'm Into Something Good". The first recording of the song was by Earl Jean. Carole King recorded the demo of the song with Brian Wilson. When the Hermits got a hold of the song in 1964, they spent nineteen hours recording it under the guidance of Mickie Most. The song reached #13 in October of that year. By 1965, the group had six top 10 hits on the U.S. charts.

In the music industry, it didn't matter if you had talent, if, you had Mickie Most as a producer, then some of your songs would have studio musicians to back your tracks. Herman's Hermits were no different. Many of their songs were backed by studio musicians like Led Zeppelin members Jimmy Page on John Paul Jones. They did however get to record some songs without the help of studio musicians.

In 1967, Herman's Hermits had their last hit record with "There's a Kind of Hush" The song went to #4 in February of 1967. It's flip side "No Milk Today" only made it to #35.

By 1970, the band started to fall apart. By December, Peter Noone quit the band so he could go back to acting. In a failed attempt at a solo career, Noone worked with David Bowie. From there, he managed to have one hit record in the UK. As the 70s went on, Noone was on British television. In the 90s, he was host of a music show on VH1 called "My Generation".

Their music is alive and well. Like all of the great groups from the 50s and 60s, Herman's Hermits still performs live. Peter Noone still sings lead, but the backup singers are all different.

Well that's the story of Herman's Hermits. I'll see you at the concert on June 11th.

Tune into Cindy's Vinyl Vault Sunday nights from 10 to midnight, Monday nights 11 to midnight, and Wednesday nights 10 to midnight for the best music from the 50s through the 70s ever placed on vinyl. Remember it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds.

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

Netflix's 'Bloodline' Ends With Riveting, Mysterious Final Season

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

One of TV's most binge-worthy shows, Bloodline, premiered its third and final season on Netflix on May 26 and brought to an end the story of the devious Rayburn clan. Be warned. This column contains spoilers.

For those of you who aren't familiar with this series, it follows the Rayburns, a very prominent family living in the Florida Keys. They're not bad people, but they did a bad thing as the series characters continually tell us. That bad thing has haunted them since the first season and they've been trying to get out from under it ever since. One lie has led to another and another and another. The problems for the family have just gotten worse and they have gotten deeper and deeper into trouble.

When season 3 begins, it picks up immediately where season 2 ended. Creators Daniel Zelman, Glenn and Todd A. Kessler were originally planning five or six seasons of Bloodline, but it's probably for the best they wrapped up with season three. The three seasons feel contained and complete. It wouldn't have been fair to fans of the show to needlessly drag out the story any longer.

A big part of the final season centers on the wrongdoings of Kevin Rayburn (Norbert Leo Butz), the brother who tests our patience the most. He continually points the finger at everybody but himself, makes mistakes over and over again, all the while trying to make everyone believe he's got everything under control. Let's not forget, that like his brother, John (Kyle Chandler), he has killed someone. But unlike John, he doesn't seem to show any remorse for what he's done.

Each episode of season 3 is a reminder that Danny Rayburn (Ben Mendelsohn) wasn't the only bad guy in the family. We are shown more of the remaining members of the Rayburn family's bad side this season. We also get to see more of the good that was in Danny, the good that his family helped crushed in him a long time ago. Danny, who makes an appearance in the last few episodes, is portrayed this season as a sympathetic figure. We see glimpses of the life that Danny could've made for himself. His family deprived him of that life.

The other big part of the season deals with John and the crippling guilt and pain that he's feeling. Even when he wants to try to make things right, so he can maybe ease his conscience for selfish reasons, he can't. John's guilt and stress over everything has reached a breaking point. He is seeing visions of Danny, young and old, and even having conversations with him. Young Danny suggests that Nolan (Owen Teague) doesn't need to know what happened to his father. Older Danny knows that he does. The final scene is a bit ambiguous, leaving it up to us to decide what happens. This might leave some fans unsatisfied, but I liked the ending. It's something that keeps people talking about the show and debating the ending. Before John even opens his mouth to tell Danny's son the truth about his father's death, or lie about it, the series cuts to black. In my opinion, John comes clean to Nolan. He's has been plagued with guilt over the whole thing and I don't think he's going to keep lying. For John, he gets some closure in that final scene, even though we don't. Bloodline was never going to provide a neat conclusion, so fans shouldn't be disappointed with the ending. Bloodline concludes three strong seasons with uncertainty, discomfort, and questions, all of which John will live with for the rest of his life.

The season is full of the great acting that Bloodline has become known for. Norbert Leo Butz and Kyle Chandler turn in Emmy worthy performances. Chandler is especially good over the last few episodes. John Leguizamo is underused this season, but excellent as always.

All 3 seasons of Bloodline are available to stream on Netflix.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

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FROM ISRAEL TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT

My Jerusalem Ritual

Forest Rain
VALLEY PATRIOT ISRAELI COLUMNIST

I have a Jerusalem ritual.

Whenever we visit, before we leave, we go to visit the Kotel.

It doesn't matter what time of day it is. The Kotel is always there, waiting.

The Kotel. A wall so important it needs no other name, besides: "The Wall."

Cutting through the heart of Jerusalem, she stands.

Golden and patient.

She calls, beckoning silently:

"Come to me. You belong to me. I am your past, your present, your future.

I have remembered you for centuries. I am waiting for you now."

There are always people at the Kotel; at 2:00 am. When it's cold. When it's hot. When it's rainy.

Sometimes it is so packed you can hardly move. Sometimes there are only a few people.

There's always someone: singing, dancing, praying, learning, teaching, sleeping, weeping, coming of age, alone, with friends, with brothers in arms... the Nation of Israel, in all her colors and variations.

And visiting friends – not of our Nation, but welcome just the same.

When I visit the Kotel I get dizzy.

Every time.

The closer I get, the louder I hear the throbbing in my veins.

And when I place my hands on the stones so many others have touched,

My head begins to ache.

Like blood pumping through clogged arteries,

A heart beating, strong and hard,

Blood trying to bring oxygen to every cell of the body -

Succeeding,

But with difficulty.

The Kotel is not the heart,

It stands between me and the heart.

It is the Temple, not the Kotel.

As the wall, next to where I park my car, outside my home is not the place that calms my heart.

My soul breathes easy after I walk inside.

Being almost there isn't enough.

How long would you stand beside the wall that stands outside the home that was once yours?

How many times would you come back to it, just to be there?

To be close to the place where your heart rested easy?

Would you teach your children about the home of your heart?

And your children's children?

And their children?

Pentecost

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

I find myself so amazed when it comes to the Wisdom of God. How He can pack so much in just one little phrase for instance, in Acts 2:1, we read the following, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." The words in this verse that I want to focus on are, "And when the day of Pentecost [was fully come."] This particular Pentecost was long time in the making and deeply anticipated by God Himself! Why, because this is what God wanted all along, a relationship with you and me and what He was willing to do to accomplish it. According to this year's Christian Calendar, Sunday June 4, 2017 is Pentecost.

Before the Pentecost of Acts 2:1, God had only one Son, Jesus Christ. It took Jesus' Death, Burial and Resurrection to make available to us the privilege to be called the Sons and Daughters of God. This Pentecost, God brought forth His Holy Spirit into the lives of the Disciples and Followers and this time it was for keeps, Salvation and Eternal Life was now available. Before this Pentecost the Holy Spirit would come and go, but now He is in us for Eternity! Acts 2:41 reads, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

At the very first Pentecost just the opposite happened. The first Pentecost marks when God gave the Law to Moses, The 10 Commandments. When Moses came down Mount Sinai the children of Israel had already broken the first Commandment concerning "No Other Gods". We can read what happen in Exodus 32:1-27,then in verse 28 we read, "And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men."

We see the contrast between these two Pentecosts. The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians chapter 3 about their differences, in verse 6 we read, "for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." Then in verses 7 & 8 Paul calls the first Pentecost, "the ministration of death, written and engraved in stones" and he calls the Pentecost of Acts 2 "the ministration of the spirit." Then in verse 9 he refers to the first Pentecost as "the ministration of condemnation" and the Pentecost of Acts 2 "the ministration of righteousness". So this gives us a little insight into God's heart about the Law of Moses. We see that the purpose of the Law was to bring us to the end of ourselves so that we see the need for a Savior! The law could not save us as we read the following in Acts 13:38-39, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." The Law could not save us, but Jesus Christ did! Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

Our Redemption was never God's plan B. How do I know this? By reading Revelation 13:8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Yes you are reading this right, "the lamb [Jesus Christ] was slain before the foundation of the world, before Creation!!! (John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," John 1:29).

What else happened before the foundation of the world? We find the answer to that in Ephesians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" Yes again you are reading this right, because the Lamb was slain before Creation God could then chose us in him before Creation!!! Wow isn't our God great! Isn't His wisdom so magnificent?

So what is the big deal about Pentecost? It is the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ! This was the very first time it became available to be born again of God's Spirit! The first time someone could become a Christian!

So when you read in Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come," you can now understand what really is behind the words, "was fully come".

Happy Birthday Church!

God Bless You all,

Peter Larocque

Peter Larocque is married to wife Pam for 34 years, they have 3 wonderful children, and blessed with 3 grandchildren He is former Lawrence School Committee Member-2006-2009, and Baker with Demoulas, Market Basket 16 + years. You can email him at peterlarocque@hotmail.com

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

land. He recounted how they took trucks down to Plymouth, England where the CB's maintained the English bases.

"Our main goal was to retrieve the equipment left on the beaches at Normandy," he said.

By October 1944, the CB units had constructed a large number of steel cubes each measuring six foot by six foot that interlocked with others, forming a bridge or ramp.

"These enormous pieces of steel were pulled across the English Channel right up to the shores of Omaha Beach. These manmade ramps allowed the trucks to cross over the water and onto the beaches to retrieve all of the equipment and metal." The cleanup on Omaha Beach took about a month. Bradley then returned to Plymouth, England.

In late 1944, James Bradley and his fellow CB's took a ship to Amsterdam and then went by convoy to the sea town of Bremen, Germany.

"We took over the areas and made living quarters. We did the electrical work, restored running water and operated large generators." The troops were notified and sent to stay in the updated quarters.

On May 7, 1945, Germany officially surrendered to the Allies bringing an end to the European conflict in WWII. However, Japan was still fighting the Allied forces with no apparent end in sight. On the order of President Harry Truman, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6th and a second bomb on Nagasaki on August 9th.

"I was on my way to Guam from Panama to take part in a massive invasion of Japan. But, the mission was called off because of the bombing." The dropping of the bombs pushed Imperial Japan to finally surrender on August 15th 1945. This date in history is known as V-J Day (Victory over Japan). The war was over and 3rd Class Petty Officer James Bradley, along with all the US and Allied troops, were allowed to go home.

James Bradley served his country in the 69th Naval Construction Battalion from January 13, 1943 and was honorably discharged on March 3, 1946. He was awarded several honors and medals for his service including, the Navy Good Conduct medal, American Campaign, Europe, Africa, ME (Middle East), Asiatic Pacific Campaign, and WWII Victory medal.

After the war, James says he enjoyed subcontracting under General Electric, building engines for fighter jets. In 1951, he became a Haverhill firefighter.

On July 1, 1961 James Bradley married his wife Nadine. They have five children, eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

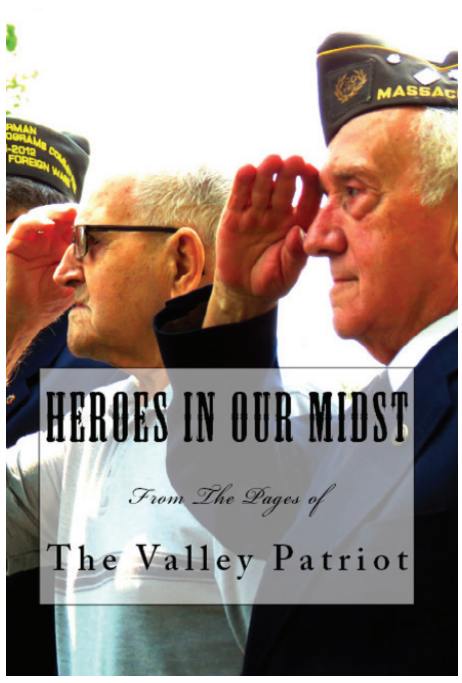
James says he does not belong to any veteran groups or agencies. He said as a firefighter he was a member of the union and received all his benefits through them. Bradley served his later years on the Haverhill Fire Department as a dispatcher. He retired in 1984 after 33 years. He has been a member of the Masonic bodies for over fifty years and says he was Master of the Lodge for many years.

Thank you so much Mr. Bradley for your service to our country and your service as a fire fighter to the City of Haverhill.

BOOK REVIEW: HEROES IN OUR MIDST

Sue Piazza
VALLEY PATRIOT BOOK REVIEW

Heroes in Our Midst: From the Pages of The Valley Patriot
Copyright © 2017, The Valley Patriot
Genre: Nonfiction
Softcover: 449 pages includes index
Rating: 5 out of 5 Bookmarkers



Since the first edition of the Valley Patriot back in March 2004, this newspaper has published a monthly feature on local veterans titled "Valley Patriot of the Month, Heroes in Our Midst". The lives of over one hundred veterans from WWII to the present Afghanistan and Iraqi Wars comprise this book.

As the newspaper articles in this book are written by different people with different styles, this is not a review of writing but rather a review of content. It should also be noted that according to the year the person is written about their piece could be either a few paragraphs or a two-part column. The length is more a matter of how this column progressed over the years rather than a commentary on the person highlighted.

All the articles are interesting. I have chosen a few individuals to mention here as an example of their importance.

Mike Beshara, WWII veteran, (Sept 2007 issue) worked with drones. While I knew Joe Kennedy, President John Kennedy's older brother, was a pilot and died during WWII, I never knew the whole story. It appears, according to Beshara, that Joe Kennedy and a man he refers to only as Whiley, another volunteer, were arming explosives for the drone when something happened causing an explosion. Kennedy and Whiley were instantly killed.

Gerald Halterman, WWII veteran, (Nov 2013 issue) witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor, he spoke of seeing the "… USS Oklahoma, taking nine torpedoes. It capsized in 8 to 12 minutes, taking 429 men to their graves, including my three closest buddies."

Sergeant First Class Christine LeCain (June 2004 issue) served as a mental health counselor. She received the Bronze Star while serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As of the issue date she was still in the military.

Unfortunately, what we are privy to are but snippets of the written about lives. While this book gives us a glimpse into the inner workings of the individual, it left me wanting more.

Some veterans have written books. Ssgt John Katsaros, WWII veteran, (Sept & Oct 2011 issues) is the author of Code Burgundy. John was the recipient of France's highest honor – Legion of Honor: Chevalier. "His espionage uncovered: Hitler's top-secret weapons … the Ho 2-29 stealth bomber (600 mph at 60,000 ft.) that could fly undetected by radar from Berlin to NYC and back without refueling-carrying the Atomic Bomb before we had it!"

We walk by people every day never knowing their stories, never knowing how truly special they might be. This book peels back the cover on area veterans to reveal true heroes.

One theme that runs throughout these interviews is that service did not end when these people left the military. They each continued to be a credit to their community volunteering in ways that were important for each of them.

The features on Sara Payne Hayden, a WWII Woman Air Service Pilot (WASP) and Luther McIlwain, a Tuskegee Airman, are just two whose stories emphasize this point.

Many of those that have been featured in Tom's pages are no longer with us. It is a blessing and a real public service that Tom Duggan and his Valley Patriot newspaper has archived these historical lives. These people and what they did for this country during their military careers and afterward should never be forgotten. If not for Duggan and his newspaper these incredible individuals might be lost to time.

This book should be required reading in today's schools. These courageous men and women put their health and their lives on the line for us. We must never forget what was sacrificed. We must never forget that "Freedom is not free".

I highly recommend this book.

EDITORS NOTE: Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan will be holding two public book signing in June. June 24th at Mann Orchards in Methuen from 11-2pm and the North Andover Farmer's Market at CVS Plaza on June 25th from 10-2pm.

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 7

with challenged clients.

Often, youths who are depressed feel disempowered and lack the confidence to make independent decisions. Horses are social animals with the ability to sense emotions. They reflect a calming influence for people working with them. Horses provide non-judgmental feedback to humans. Both scientific studies and anecdotal evidence show that working with horses in a therapeutic setting builds confidence, creates a sense of competence, develops problem solving and decision making skills, increases coping skills, and helps with emotional regulation.

The Carriage Barn Adaptive Therapy Programs seek to promote the health and well-being of individuals of all ages with disabilities by enhancing their physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional healing and strengthening through equine activities.

For more information please contact The Carriage Barn at 603-378-0140 or carriagebarn@comcast.net.

MARTY HOGAN RUNS FOR LOWELL CITY COUNCIL - Marty Hogan, a resident of Lowell's Centralville neighborhood, officially announced today that he is running for a seat on the City Council.

"It's no secret that Lowell's city councilors mostly represent the Belvedere section of the city, and it's no wonder why that neighborhood receives a disproportionate share of attention," said Hogan. "That's great for the people who live there, but it leaves the majority of residents who live elsewhere without a seat at the table when important decisions are being made. I want to bring a new perspective to our City Council, one that focuses on neighborhoods like the one I live in."

Hogan says he intends to be one of the first candidates to take out nomination papers when they are made available by the city clerk later this week. He plans to host an official campaign kickoff event later this summer. For more information about Marty Hogan and his campaign, please visit www.martyhogan4lowell.com.

THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

Please pre-register for all classes by calling (978)623-8320, visit us at www.andoverseniorcenter.org or come by at 30 Whittier Court to see our complete offerings.

As of June 1 tax abatement applications are available at the Center. 100 hours of work will be required to receive a tax abatement. Please drop by to get an application and sign up for a mandatory information session.

GameSense: An educational journey into the mind of a slot machine

Monday, June 12 at 1:30 p.m. Free of charge with pre-registration

Do you ever wonder why certain slot machines seem to be player friendly while others are not? Slot machines are the most popular casino game and yet are also the most mysterious. Learn more about this favorite game to make your money last longer, have more fun and possibly come out ahead from time to time. All of these are realistic outcomes for an informed slot player. GameSense will engage us in a slot conversation that is not available to most!

Andover 101 with Andover Historical Society on June 23rd at 10am. held at the Center at Punchard. Free of charge with pre-registration.

Historical Society's popular Andover 101 presentation, an unstuffy one-hour introduction to stories that helped create the Andover we know today. A team of speakers tell 15 short stories, giving you a quick and lively introduction to Andover's essential stories. What are essential stories? The five minute short stories include geology, Native American life, Salem witch trials of 1692, Underground Railroad, Shawsheen Village and industry.

Brown Bag Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Boston Food Bank, and The Senior Center at Punchard (C@P) are expanding the Brown Bag program. This is FREE to anyone 60+ with an income less than $21,978 for a single person or $29,637 for a couple, or on Mass Health, Chapter 115, food stamps or fuel assistance. This grocery bag is available on the fourth Tuesday of the month, June 27, 2017, at 9:15 am and must be picked up by 10:15 am. Call the Center to see if you are eligible.

BALANCE CLINIC

Wednesday, June 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Join us for this new quarterly balance assessment clinic. Take this opportunity for a 1 on 1 assessment with a registered Physical Therapist to develop a plan to improve your balance. It is also an excellent opportunity to visit our Wellness Clinic where our nurses offer a confidential meeting to check blood pressure and help you manage your day-to-day questions and health needs. Please call to register!

WELLNESS CLINICS - Every Wednesday at 2:00 pm. Stop in for an individual meeting with our trained nurses who will help you manage any day-to-day health issues that come up for you, including blood pressure and weight check. Take advantage of this free, confidential service.

YOUR MONEY WITH ALEX TALCOTT

Are You Talking Yourself Out of Saving?

Alex Talcott
VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNIST

Saving for – and even thinking about – retirement can be overwhelming. While it's natural to worry about your financial future, be careful not to let preconceived notions prevent you from saving for tomorrow.

My wife is a therapist by trade, so we talk about the kinds of things that challenge people fully aware that action is needed to get where they want to get in their lives. If you find yourself having one of the following doubts, consider reframing your thinking. A shift in perspective may be what you need to get on the right track.

"Retirement is a long way off." It's easy to get wrapped up in your current financial obligations, telling yourself that you'll prioritize your retirement next year. However, like many worthy aspirations, a sound retirement plan takes time and discipline to achieve. If your financial independence seems far away, remind yourself of the power of saving early. Time allows you to tackle your retirement goals in smaller increments with the potential for compounded growth. Retirement ages will likely come to you and peers faster than you think, and your future self will thank you for planning ahead.

"I'll prioritize retirement after paying for my child's education." With the long rising costs of college, it's understandable and even necessary for you to help your child obtain a quality education. However, your nest egg should be the top priority. Once you reach retirement, you have limited options if your savings come up short. Alternatively, your child can secure financial aid to pay for college, including scholarships, grants, work-study programs and loans. You simply don't have options like these to help fund your retirement. While retirement deserves the most attention, you can devise a strategy to simultaneously save for both important goals.

"My retirement dreams are too expensive." If your dreams of traveling through Europe or starting a new hobby seem expensive, give yourself a reality check. Start by comparing your dreams to your current nest egg. Calculate (or seek help calculating) the amount you need to maintain your lifestyle, cover potential unexpected expenses (such as healthcare) and achieve your retirement bucket list. If your savings come up short, create a plan to fill the gap. Lofty dreams will force you to ask the tough question, "Do I want to adjust my current lifestyle to achieve this retirement dream?"

"I won't be able to retire when I want." It's true that more Americans are working longer and delaying retirement. Some simply prefer to remain active contributors in the workforce, but many others are forced to postpone retirement until they accumulate sufficient resources to retire comfortably. If you dream of retiring early, carefully assess whether your nest egg is sustainable over several decades. You'll want to make sure the money you withdraw in the early years of retirement doesn't put you at risk of outliving your assets.

"I can't afford to save." If this phrase comes to mind, give your self-talk a flip. It may already be obvious to you, but instead think "I can't afford not to save". Setting aside even a small amount of money each month can make a big difference, as your assets can grow with the benefit of compounding. Get expert advice on where and how to save. Then consider increasing your monthly contribution to continue to build.

"My family will help me." Perhaps you're expecting a generous inheritance, or hoping that your adult kids will provide a financial cushion if you experience an unexpected expense. Regardless of who you believe may come to your aid, it's best to take your financial security into your own hands. Life is full of uncertainties that could impact the bank accounts for both you and your family members. Knowing your future is under financial control may give you, your children and your parents peace of mind.

It's not too late to correct misconceptions about the importance of saving for retirement. Consider working with a financial advisor to create a plan for your future. Together you can determine your savings targets and explore a wide range of strategies to meet your financial goals. It's time to talk yourself back in to retirement; you deserve it.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire and Middleton, Massachusetts. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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DRUGS: FROM PAGE 10

debated in every home and business and in all our halls of government. It likely needs to include measures that encourage those who wish to be Americans to stay, work, pay taxes, document themselves and certify that they are not criminals, so they can continue to contribute in our communities, and have a reasonable path to become citizens of the United States of America. We cannot afford to fail in eventually enacting comprehensive immigration reforms because it defines who we really are as "Americans" and the world is too dangerous a place otherwise.

Meanwhile, however, we must not wait to take the steps that most all of us can agree upon – to rid ourselves of those foreigners who are engaged in commercial drug trafficking and other serious crime that ravages our local communities -- we all have an obligation to demand better of our Government.

Property Sales, Foreclosures for MAY, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

ANDOVER

Joseph Harrington, William & Virgina Morrison, 172 Haverhill St. Unit 226, $320,000.00

Brian & Kerrie Fraser, Stephen Galizio, High St., $339,000.00

Michael & Kristi Devine, Edward Williams, 450 Brookside Drive Unit C, $299,900.00

Antoinette & James Hadad, Christopher Peixotto, 9 Marion Ave, $524,900.00

Donald & Sarah Abugov, James & Antoinette Hadad, 23 Pleasant St., $870,000.00

Marcelle Colaneri, Jonathan & Julie Kukk, 36 Central St. Unit 3, $262,600.00

Arthur Tucker, Madeline Terranova, 53 Summer St. Unit A, $205,000.00

Paul Bruk III, Matthew Carlson, 4 Rasussen Circle, $575,000.00

Paul Bruk III, Thien Van Cai, 4 Rasussen Circle,

Michael & Megan Ohanlon, Lexicon Government Services LLC, 231 Highland Ave, $680,000.00

Allan Kaminsky & Deborah Sorterup, Alejandro Jose Camin Calvo, 2 Swan Lane Unit 1-3, $715,000.00

Carolyn Tower & Emmanuel Venuti, Murali & Sujatha Kontham, 355 River Road, $521,000.00

New Brickstone Office LLC, New Brickstone Land LLC, Fleming Ave, $500,000.00

KM Squared LLC, Kathleen Anne Jackson, 6 Marigold Lane, $483,000.00

Loosigian Realty Trust, Andover Senior Housing LLC, 254 Lowell St., $3,600,000.00

Marigold Lane Realty trust, James & Anne Halsey, 3 Marigold Lane, $550,000.00

Himayun & Naheed Mirza, Sumit & Pulamee Barua, 286 River Road, $419,000.00

Rafael & Inna Gurevich, Yan Wang, 18 Dale St. Unit 8-E, $410,000.00

Brian & Heather Flanagan, Todd & Kerri Winick, 4 Prospect Road, $600,000.00

David & Cornelia Norris, Jessica Oar, 1 Walnut Ave, $432,500.00

David & Cornelia Norris, Javier Navarro, 1 Walnut Ave,

Henry & Sarah Younger, Michael & Kathleen Cook, 68 Central St., $1,621,800.00

Curtin Family Realty Trust, North Main Harding LLC, 183-187 North Main St., $850,000.00

Nina R Lasch Family Trust, Stephanie & Daniel Picariello, 18 Blueberry Hill Road, $860,000.00

Gardner & Jennifer Edgarton, Pradeep Kunala, 25 Noel Road, $650,000.00

Gardner & Jennifer Edgarton, Garlapati Kiranmayi, 25 Noel Road,

Cattle Crossing LLC, Susan Beth Anamier, 28 Greenwood Road, $515,000.00

Cattle Crossing LLC, Christopher Ocallaghan, 28 Greenwood Road,

Richard Mccormick, Kimberly Lovering, 16 Balmoral St. Unit 318, $225,000.00

Deborah Corrado & Michael Carroll, Judith Thomas, 80C Washington Park Drive Unit 9, $160,000.00

Patricia J Rajski Revocable Trust & Paul Cleary Revocable Trust, Gardner & Jennifer Edgarton, 3 Scotland Drive, $1,067,750.00

Debra Giddings, Seth Taneja Realty Trust, 2 Power Mill Square Unit 6B, $499,900.00

Matthew & Shawn Mills, Harold Melandri, 11 Oriole Drive, $921,189.20

Matthew & Shawn Mills, Karalynn Baganski, 11 Oriole Drive,

Sabadell United Bank N A, Oscar Vasquez, 45 Gray Road, $450,000.00

Sabadell United Bank N A, Jennette Marte, 45 Gray Road,

Jason Ross & Myung Han, Jared & Courtney Nicole Fryee, 16 Cornell Road, $461,000.00

Utpal & Alla Majumder, Thomas Logue, 137 High Plain Road, $420,000.00

Paul & Cynthia Fortier, Stephen & Donna Mills, 17 Kathleen Drive, $642,000.00

Mcsweeney Nominee Trust, Donald & Betsy Desfosse, 8 Tally Ho Lane, $755,000.00

Raymond & Joan Cannon, Qing Tan, 54 Abbot St., $1,025,000.00

Elizabeth Tedesco Irrevocable Trust of 2014, Pauline Reagan, 90C Washington Park Drive Unit 10, $132,800.00

Mcvey-Chestnut St. Trust, Demolady 5 LLC, 8 Chestnut St., $679,000.00

Roger Desmarais Living Trust & Mary Woiswillo-Moran Living Trust, Matthew & Kristin Tetreau, 5 Argilla Road, $875,000.00

Edward & Patricia Gaj, Scott Strandberg, 20 Sugarbush Lane, $760,000.00

Edward & Patricia Gaj, Linda Mckerral, 20 Sugarbush Lane,

Yan Mei Zhou, Danielle Gillis, 38 Juniper Road EXT, $538,000.00

Michael & Cynthia Pilla, Robin Comerford, 38 Pasho St., $630,000.00

Geraldine Deyermond, 84 Andover St. lLC, 64 Andover St., $330,000.00

NJV Family Trust of 2008, Lingchen Jiang, 16 Martingale Lane Unit 8, $498,900.00

NJV Family Trust of 2008, Guodong Li, 16 Martingale Lane Unit 8,

69 North St. LLC, Madana Ambavaram, 12 Boardwalk Drive Unit 12, $569,900.00

69 North St. LLC, Praveena Gajjala, 12 Boardwalk Drive Unit 12,

Thomas & Joan Spitzer, Johnathan & Caroline Gillis, 14 Seten Circle, $758,000.00

Katherine & Gerard Santelli Nicole Irvin, Gustavo & Mary Resendiz, 320 High Plain Road, $929,875.00

David Ryan Novicki, Changning & Yanfeng Liu, 30C Washington Park Drive Unit 12, $183,600.00

Marion Colman, Emmanuel & Shlomit Yashar, 3 Jefferson Lane, $635,000.00

Jason & Kristi Barbieri, Julie & Matthew Scott, 29 Bradely Road, $675,000.00

Jill Robbins, William Harmon, 9 Penbrook Circle, $668,000.00

Jill Robbins, Yao Yao, 9 Penbrook Circle,

Anthony James Rotstart, Jaculen Maglio, 16 Balmoral St. Unit 115, $265,000.00

Cynthia Good & Alan Pratt, Ashish Shah, 13 Summer St., $115,500.00

Cynthia Good & Alan Pratt, Kara Nugent, 13 Summer St.,

LAWRENCE

Nicholas Carbone, AG & J Realty Trust, 44 Pleasant St., $251,000.00

25 Marston St. Realty LLC, MK Marston Properties LLC, 25 Marston St. Unit 305 401 405, $1,065,000.00

USA Housing Urban Development, Kelly Polanco, 23 Dunstable St., $205,100.00

West Beacon St. Realty Trust, Christopher Hui, 32-34 West Beacon St., $396,000.00

Pedro Carty & Joseph Baldiga, La Belle Maison LLC, 14-16 Phillips St., $262,500.00

Rosa Avilla, Jenny Parra, 44 Morton St., $250,000.00

Josue Urias, Wilmar Perez, 27 Chester St., $240,000.00

Polonia Sampayo, Carmen Mota Deortega, 24 William St., $357,000.00

Polonia Sampayo, Emmanuel Ortega, 24 William St.,

Israel & Elizabeth Taveras, Deidamia Brito, 11 Crescent St., $299,000.00

Jeffrey & Susan Haas, Eileen & Maureen Ahearn, 15 Pilgrim Road, $338,000.00

Shortsleeves Realty Trust, Merrimack St. LLC, 444 Riverside Drive, $330,000.00

David & Sharon Field, Mohammad Almawali, 34 Coolidge St., $445,000.00

Luden Villa, Maria Deleon, 45 Myrtle St., $410,000.00

Stephen Kane, Brad Fournier, 102 A Cambridge St., $150,000.00

Silvia Villa De Pita, Viriarqui Rodriguez, 64 Tremont St., $320,000.00

Silvia Villa De Pita, Pedro Mosquea-Genao, 64 Tremont St.,

Ziad Hanna, Mona Italien, 36 Howard St., $329,000.00

Ziad Hanna, Monaliza Pena, 36 Howard St.,

Gerald & Stephen Lachance Ella Abdoo, Robert & Lorarae Rancati, 5 Glenwood Drive, $239,900.00

Maricela Mercedes, Misael Matias, 20 Knox St. Unit 38, $122,000.00

Franklyn Veloz, Marciela Mercedes, 53A Eutaw St. Unit 2, $260,000.00

Franklyn Veloz, Fredy Mota, 53A Eutaw St. Unit 2,

Frank Robinson, Eric Artiles, 38 Forest St., $162,000.00

Awilda Muniz, Carlos & Maria Montemor, 21-23 Poplar St., $375,000.00

Maria Valentin, Dolores Espinal, 228 Bruce St., $304,000.00

Maria Valentin, Alberto Blanco, 228 Bruce St.,

Nadira Realty Inc, 467-477 Broadway St. LLC, 394 Broadway, $300,000.00

William Mcdaniel Revocable Trust Emile Levasseur Revocable Trust Warlock Realty Trust, 467-477 Broadway St. LLC, 665 Haverhill St., $300,000.00

Well Fargo Bank N A, Bcad LLC, 18-20 Bennett St., $262,500.00

LC Properties LLC, Dayaris Martinez, 8 Kendall St., $390,000.00

David & Meghan Matson, Roseanne Gonzalez, 659 Mount Vernon St., $349,000.00

Martha & Daniel Sybert Christine Santiago, Jennifer Imperato, 6 Rita Lane, $285,500.00

Diego Neira, Ramon Mendez, 105 East Pleasant St., $326,000.00

Diego Neira, Sona Caceres, 105 East Pleasant St.,

James & Grace Byron, Christopher Mitchell, 6 Sherman Place, $250,000.00

Rafael Ortiz, Daniel Perez, 68 Inman St., $225,000.00

Rafael Ortiz, Eguenia Urena Deperez, 68 Inman St.,

Moses Ndarwah, Noel Martinez Ceballos, 272 E Haverhill St. Unit 1, $118,600.00

Luis Diaz Estrella, Carolin Tejeda, 31 Bennington St. Unit A, $175,000.00

Juan Cepeda, Brendaliz Ortega, 449-451 Lowell St., $385,000.00

Juan Cepeda, Nestor Batista, 449-451 Lowell St.,

Thomas Scolastico, Pavel & Yuli Khaykin, 48 Union St., $265,000.00

Dilsa Toribio-guerrero, Michael Cronin, 24-26 Inman St. Unit 2, $122,000.00

Palo Peirce, Property Ducks lLC, 25-27 Mongomery St., $280,000.00

Deutsche Bank National Trust Co TR, George Koontz, 317-319 Park St., $224,000.00

Edward Digiulio, Shalom Bennett, 16 East Pleasant St., $264,900.00

Edward Digiulio, Rosalinda Grullon, 16 East Pleasant St.,

Ronald & Allison Hancock, Rawilda Mejia, 42-44 Shawmus St. Unit A, $185,000.00

Henry & Sau Le, Jose Canela, 115 Howard St., $239,900.00

Ana Mota, Mario Jerez, 42 Lake St., $207,000.00

Gloria & Patrick Blanchette, Oscar Torres, 215 Ferry St., $264,000.00

Two-Sixty-Five Lowell St. Trust, Freds Auto Services lLC, 265 Lowell St., $525,000.00

17 Broadway Realty LLC, Allstate BK Real Estate Holdings LTD, 187 Broadway, $1,565,000.00

Pierre & Yvette Claude, Johan & Yain-

CONTINUED PAGE 22

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for MAY, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

CONT. FROM PAGE 21

nilis Susana, 193-195 East Haverhill St., $397,900.00

Union Bailey LLC, Silva Management & Acquisitions LLC, 47-49 Bradford St., $300,000.00

RB Asset Management LLC, Alexander Morin, 31 Josephine Ave Unit 31, $269,900.00

Marc Lane Realty Trust, Crispus Muroki, 5 Marc Lane, $310,000.00

Bruce Hall & Paula Moreau, Ramon Tiburcio, 4-4A Hobson St., $340,000.00

Makeover Pros LLC, Jose & Isabel Pena, 23 Perry Ave, $235,000.00

Andres Castillo, LLB Construction Inc, 164 High St., $55,000.00

Erilenny Alvarado, Ramon Estrella Reynoso, 21 Cresent St. Unit 15G, $70,000.00

Maxwell Trejo, Marleni Ventura, 28 Orchard St., $287,000.00

Maxwell Trejo, Balibor Stojchevski, 28 Orchard St.,

Henry Caceres & Ramona Gonzalez, Sandraliz Rivera, 70 Middlebury St., $265,000.00

Luis Castillo, Lorangel Pena, 76-78 Center St., $345,000.00

Maria Martinez, Porfirio Penalo, 2-4 Grainger St., $420,000.00

Maria Martinez, Rosa Restituyo Depenalo, 2-4 Grainger St.,

Steven Raffa, Wiston Almanzar, 28 Midland St., $230,000.00

METHUEN

Anyelis Guzman, Tony Polanco, 91 Brown St., $260,000.00

Arthur & Kathleen Pearse, Stephen & Kristin Szettella, 14 Falmouth St., $319,000.00

Saint Christopher Properties LLC, Makeover Pros LLC, 20-22 Ashland Ave, $275,000.00

George Souza & Stephanie Pereira, Richard Jose, 351 Lowell St., $305,000.00

Valentin & Orquidea Calixto, Rafael Santana, 99 Meriline Ave, $369,900.00

Valentin & Orquidea Calixto, Ana Grateraux, 99 Meriline Ave,

Marybeth Mcinnis, Lauran & James Tarshi, MJC Development Corp, 22 Hunter Ave, $115,000.00

Cesar Castillo, Felix Maldonaldo, 8 Brown St., $427,000.00

Cesar Castillo, Yajaira Pimentel, 8 Brown St.,

UMB Bank NA Tr, Carlos Rolando Casta Nza Zapata, 20 Thissel St., $166,000.00

Gaudette Fmaily Nominee Trust, Michael Juergens, 20A Elm St., $185,000.00

Eddie Hornedo Jr., Juan Atehortua, 19 Spruce St., $305,000.00

Patricia Curtis, Michael & Melinda Moreira, 59 Woodburn Drive, $389,900.00

Nicholas & Suzette Dore, Lynn Dahill, 26 Glen Forest Lane, $390,000.00

Nicholas & Suzette Dore, Amanda Karch, 26 Glen Forest Lane,

Sean & Ashley Godding, Joseph & Kerry Broderick, 5 Beedle Ter, $310,000.00

Lawrence Barnes III Revocable Trust, Meredith Campbell, 41 Milk Ave, $290,000.00

Lawrence Barnes III Revocable Trust, Michael Barnes, 41 Milk Ave,

37 Lexington Ave Realty Trust, Mckenzie Roane, 37 Lexington Ave, $259,000.00

Bethania Schlosser, Enny Bernabel, 73 Forest St.,

Bethania Schlosser, Luis Antonio Delossantos, 73 Forest St.,

Brian & Kelly Collins, Ryan & Carolyne Atlas, 104 Harris St., $489,000.00

David Broadhurst, Michael Luongo, 40 Danbury Drive Unit 5, $98,000.00

Michael Luongo, Rebecca Lehocky, 523 Lowell St., $382,500.00

Michael Luongo, Matthew Thomson, 523 Lowell St.,

Hulse Family Revocable Trust, Christopher & Sandra Strugis, 17 Blackberry Lane, $451,200.00

Pond/Tyler Nominee Trust, Christopher & Shermila Clarke, 20A Pond St., $349,900.00

Joseph & Timothy Lee, Kristine Lee-Burns, Shaughn Mosier, 125 Howe St. Unit 2, $157,000.00

Joseph & Timothy Lee, Kristine Lee-Burns, Alysha Burns, 125 Howe St. Unit 2,

Cecile Catania, Ross Faucher, 58 Conrad St., $235,000.00

Francis Preston, Erin & Scott Edwards, 19 Woodburn Drive, $415,000.00

Matthew Davis, Peter Greelish, 20 Heritage Lane, $400,000.00

Corey Capoccia, Lisa Demattio, 21 Hampshire Road Unit 202, $240,000.00

Cuong Pham, Sean & Catherine Pollard, 36-38 Forest St., $492,000.00

Cuong Pham, Joseph Mclaughlin, 36-38 Forest St.,

Cuong Pham, Joan Brenton, 36-38 Forest St.,

Carl Wood, Edmund & James Skea, Jason Bornstien, 59 Somerset St., $210,000.00

Carl Wood, Edmund & James Skea, Brittany Vivier, 59 Somerset St.,

Susan & Steven Richard, Halley Mckenna, 9 Lupine Ave, $295,000.00

Susan & Steven Richard, Daniel Farnham, 9 Lupine Ave,

Willam & Diane Moszka, Walter & Jocelyn Torres, 29 Clementi Lane, $365,000.00

Toll MA IV LLC, Stephen & Cynthia Prestigiacomo, 41 Pine Tree Drive Unit 89, $654,502.00

Elanor Ruffen, Marilyn Donnely, Olive Kasouf, James & Kathleen Cook, Julio & Celia Morales, 41 Hazel St., $303,000.00

Carol Brown, Christina Piantigini, 55 harvard Ave, $292,500.00

Carmen Navarro, Juan Diaz Vargas, 34 Lippold St., $279,900.00

Double A Perillo Family Trust, Franklin Ventura-Argamonte, 136 Pleasant Valley St., $235,000.00

Double A Perillo Family Trust, Jose Perez, 136 Pleasant Valley St.,

EMR Trust, Kathleen & Alan Cabral, 17 Kerri Ann Circle, $510,000.00

Dawn & Dennis Naffah, A & W Properties LLC, 37 Elm St., $225,000.00

Thomas Calderone & Craig Mckenzie, M & A Real Estate LLC, 36 Riverdale St., $135,000.00

David & Carole Gilberrti, Jean Michel Louis, 1 Highland Ave, $362,900.00

David & Carole Gilberrti, Martha Estriplet, 1 Highland Ave,

Claudio Troncoso, Matthew Theriault, 889 Riverside Drive, $265,000.00

Henry & Sau Le, Jose Montan Morillo, 5 Jefferson Road, $380,000.00

Henry & Sau Le, Natalie Erazo, 5 Jefferson Road,

Donald Cullum, Tiago Zilli, 16 Hobson St., $360,000.00

Central Catholic High School Of Lawrence Inc, Toll Ma Land III LP, 483 Howe St., $1,500,000.00

P & M Construction LLC, Pertie Realty Trust, 1A Olympic Village Drive, $550,000.00

U S Bank NA TR, Edward Cavatorta, 66 Capitol St., $200,000.00

James & Gail Carey, Libnan & Rebecca Ramy, 2 Westwind Drive, $437,000.00

Douglas & Margaret Roeck, John & Elaine Daszkiewicz, 9 Beeston Lane Unit 72, $545,000.00

Pineomaria Trust, Noris Frias, 21 Hampshire Road Unit 317, $240,000.00

Pineomaria Trust, Rafael Duran, 21 Hampshire Road Unit 317,

Allen LLC, Alexsandro L. Guedes, 18 Allen St., $391,400.00

Carol Razza, Anaseidy Ruiz, 219 Jackson St., $327,400.00

Carol Razza, Ivonne Maldonado, 219 Jackson St.,

Vallario Family Trust, Nadia Mohamed, 50 Hampstead St., $330,000.00

Vallario Family Trust, John Ciardello, 50 Hampstead St.,

Target Asset Recovery LLC, Taysel Concepcion, 186 Lowell St., $350,000.00

Target Asset Recovery LLC, Timothy Delisle, 186 Lowell St.,

Jennifer & Kenneth Quinn, Jesuino Vincente, 23 Athens Way, $420,000.00

Roger Feghali, Nehman Soufan, 15-17 Hazel St., $165,000.00

Boston Property TV LLC, Gregory & Katepimon Davis, 520 Prospect St., $367,000.00

Toll MA IV LLC, Tracey Delsignore-Wischnowsky, 37 Pine Tree Drive Unit 91, $762,728.00

Narciso Parra, Lidia Taveras, 15 Dewey St., $298,000.00

Michael & Marie Berube, Pauline Vieira, 45 Sandra Lane Realty Trust, 45 Sandra Lane, $190,000.00

Laurie Firth, Joyce & Lisa Shirton, Peter Aznoian, 12 Park St., $100,000.00

Joseph & Nancy Collins, Joseph Rastellini, 85 Ford St., $135,000.00

Hilmi Dunar & Nadine Brown, Michael Morin, 30 Danbury Drive Unit 30-9, $107,900.00

Jeffrey & Patricia Lane, Kelly & Peter Sullivan, 33 Archibald Ave, $528,000.00

Stephen & Amanda Ciofolo, Gina Rauch, 15 Hillcrest Ave, $355,000.00

Quang Mac & Que Luong, Thai Nguyen, 11 Booth Road, $340,000.00

Quang Mac & Que Luong, Kathy & Peter Le, 11 Booth Road,

Michelle Legere, Sara Shea, 4 Hill Ave, $421,000.00

Constance Doto & Debra Ciardello, Merrimack St. AF Nominee Tryst, 375 Merrimack St. Unit 13, $190,000.00

Joseph Dibattista, Pedro Ramierz, 6 Stone Castle Drive Unit 9, $525,000.00

Joseph Dibattista, Delmy Moreno, 6 Stone Castle Drive Unit 9,

Charles & Kathy Luciano, Joanne Jackson, 23 Hampshire Road Unit 417, $249,000.00

Renee Kenney, Scott Carbonneau, 32 Webb St., $285,000.00

Gregory & Dana Read, Patricia Fennelly, 18 Oak Meadow Lane, $366,000.00

Moemia & Noemia Rocha, Maksoodkhan & Karimabibi Pathan, 1 Capitol Street, $335,000.00

Scott & Laura Goddard, Anthony Grasso, 5 East Brook Place, $348,000.00

Scott & Laura Goddard, Jennifer Willyard, 5 East Brook Place,

NORTH ANDOVER

George V Gorham & Margaret M Gorham Revocable Trust, Digloria Vazquez Realty Corp, 583 Chickering Road Unit 6-7, $460,000.00

Bryan & Danielle Brazill, Kelly Murphy, 498 Salem Street, $565,000.00

Raafat & Sonya Kammel, Bassam El-Jamous, 9 Walker Road Unit 4, $152,500.00

Lois Lachapelle, Livingstone Development Corp, 1975 Salem Street, $650,000.00

Henry Lyle, Livingston Realty Trust, 148 Main Street Unit K221, $222,000.00

Jeffrey Martin, Laura A Andreottola Family Trust, 6 Walker Road Unit 7, $155,000.00

Daniel & Valerie Fay, Loop Simas Family Trust, 215 Hickory Hill Road, $613,000.00

BJF Realty Trust, Gjergji & Bardha Loci, 808 Johnson Street, $472,000.00

Omara Family Nominee Trust, Daniel & Valerie Fay, 100 Johnny Cake Street , $690,000.00

Title Town Holdings LLC, Scott & Colleen Donnelly, 120 Old Farm Road, $686,000.00

James & Katherine Barron, Robert & Krystal Koch, 370 Sutton Street, $307,000.00

Sherylyn Henschel, Peter & Arlene Devlin, 190 Chickering Road Unit 208D, $260,000.00

John Larkin, Zachary, Douglas, & Karen Brown, 1 Walker Road Unit 1-7, $162,000.00

Nancy Collins Revocable Trust, J & M Realty Trust II, 695 Salem Street, $429,900.00

Romaine Giarrusso Trust, Lynn Enterprise LLC, 60 Marblehead Street, $527,500.00

John Reddington & Anne Lang, David Siebeking, 337 Summer Street, $750,000.00

John Reddington & Anne Lang, Marco Silva, 337 Summer Street,

Michael & Doreen Corliss, Matthew & Sasha Seed, 5 Sandra Lane, $490,000.00

Lineta E Fanaras Trust, Jacquelyn Chiasson, 7 Farrwood Avenue Unit 7, $182,000.00

Lineta E Fanaras Trust, Laurie Melanson, 7 Farrwood Avenue Unit 7,

Petrie Realty Trust, Jaime Nieves, 67 Stonecleave Road, $589,000.00

Petrie Realty Trust, Johanna Medina, 67 Stonecleave Road,

Stephen & Phyllis Zampitella, Michael Terfry, 1 Harvest Drive Unit 206, $287,000.00

Foster 243 148 Main Street Realty Trust, Paige Mcbride, 148 Main Street Unit F-243, $235,000.00

J. Robert Uhler, Andrew & Maureen Heinze, 2 Andrew Circle Unit 2, $240,000.00

Kevin Moy, Amy Le, 3 Harvest Drive Unit 310, $300,000.00

Erin Gillies-Thibeault & Amy Thibeault, Alexander & Susan Blane, 265 Sutton Street, $325,000.00

John & Darlene King, Robert & Alison Loiselle, 599 Turnpike Street, $320,000.00

Catherine Rideout Haubner, Robert & Marilyn Stasonis, 42 Millpond, $325,000.00

Lydia, Richard, & Valerie Gacioch, Hermitage Realty Trust, 56 Russell Street, $332,000.00

Berry/114 Co LLC, Nitin Saxena, 40 Compass Point Unit J3, $448,300.00

Berry/114 Co LLC, Rohini Agarwal, 40 Compass Point Unit J3,

Adam Finn & Senay Abbay, Alexandria Sahtouris, 2 Walker Road Unit 4, $129,900.00

Elaine Trupasso, Charles Gibbs, 350 Greene Street Unit 106, $329,900.00

Kerry Bonner, Paul Mertens, 16 Millpond, $68,911.00

Dorothy & Thomas Brennan, Benjamin & Gregory Henkle, 3-5 Bixby Avenue, $417,500.00

John & Kathleen Walsh, Matthew & Lenore Benessere, 352 Foster Street, $908,000.00

TKZ LLC, Matthew & Angela Semeraro, 103 Sutton Hill Road, $839,000.00

Danny & Sharon Pelache, Mohammed & Tehseen Siddiqui, 84 Compass Point Unit C3, $475,000.00

Audrey Goldstein-Kent, Erica Fanuele, 634 Chickering Road, $238,500.00

Matthew & Amanda Rogers, Daniel Vining, 486 Wood Lane, $414,000.00

Matthew & Amanda Rogers, Corine Chick, 486 Wood Lane,

Jeffrey & Valerie Miller, Matthew & Amanda Rogers, 21 Summit Street, $530,000.00

Berry/114 Co LLC, Kenan Resic, 38 Compass Point Unit J4, $468,300.00

Berry/114 Co LLC, Ranjana Sharma, 38 Compass Point Unit J4,

Stephanie & Marieline Bellosguardo, Harit & Heather Vora, 46 Liberty Street, $625,000.00

Rose Family Irrevocable Trust, Julie Moss, 180 Chickering Road Unit 207C, $275,000.00

Gregory & Jennifer Daigle, Victoria Grewal, 57 Davis Street, $457,500.00

Timothy & Julie Glynn, Rachel Skerry, 19 Surrey Drive, $485,000.00

Timothy & Julie Glynn, Brandon James, 19 Surrey Drive,

Scott Smith, Marion Langan, 21 Marengo Street Unit 9, $345,000.00

Albacado LP, 45 Beechwood LLC, 45 Beechwood Drive, $2,300,000.00

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JOSEPH DIPIETRO
FINANCE DIRECTOR
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107 ANDOVER ST
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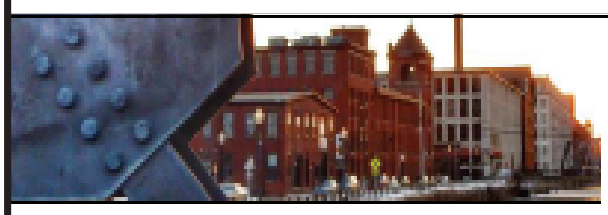
Attorney Arthur Broadhurst


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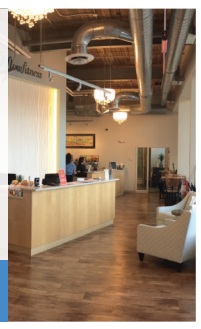

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